■ Sports / A23
Red Sox a game away from World Series sweep

■ Business / B1
Booming call center sector sees P38B in revenues

■ Entertainment / A28
Jolina's boyfriend a lawyer who knows 'how to make me feel good'

■News / A2
DOF, COA clear Winston Garcia

■ INQUIRER IN-DEPTH
Mga nasa bingit ng buhay: ang kanilang hiling, dalangin
Ngayong 10:30 ng gabi, sa ABC

Bush-Kerry race deadlocked six days before US elections

SIOUX CITY, Iowa—In the mail, on the phone and in courtrooms across the nation, activists, lawyers and partisans of all kinds are intensifying their efforts to shape the outcome of next week's presidential race.

New state polls suggest that the race between US President George W. Bush and Sen. John Kerry was deadlocked in Florida, Ohio and

BUSH-KERRY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Thursday, October 28, 2004 ★★ ~~56~~ 60 pages / 5 sections / vol. 19 / no. 323 P18
website: www.inq7.net

4 vital gov't witnesses in Nida murder missing

By Philip C. Tubeza

LESS than two weeks before the third death anniversary of actress Nida Blanca, the Department of Justice yesterday announced that four vital government witnesses in the case had gone missing.

One of the witnesses, a helper of former

4 VITAL/ A18

ERIK ARAZAS

MELISSAWATCH, named after Melissa Mercado-Martel (right), is launched in the home of Gina de Venecia (left) with DSWD Secretary Dinky Soliman.

SPICE in former life of Sen. Lito Lapid, Melanie Marquez, lunches with her ex at Senate lounge.

THE DISTAFF side came in their fineries to celebrate the 88th anniversary of the Senate. From left, Rep. Cynthia Villar, Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, Marissa Lapid and Alice Lacson. JESS YUSON.

Abaya wife: Name names

AFP chief's spouse dares Miriam

By Alcuin Papa and Michael Lim Ubac

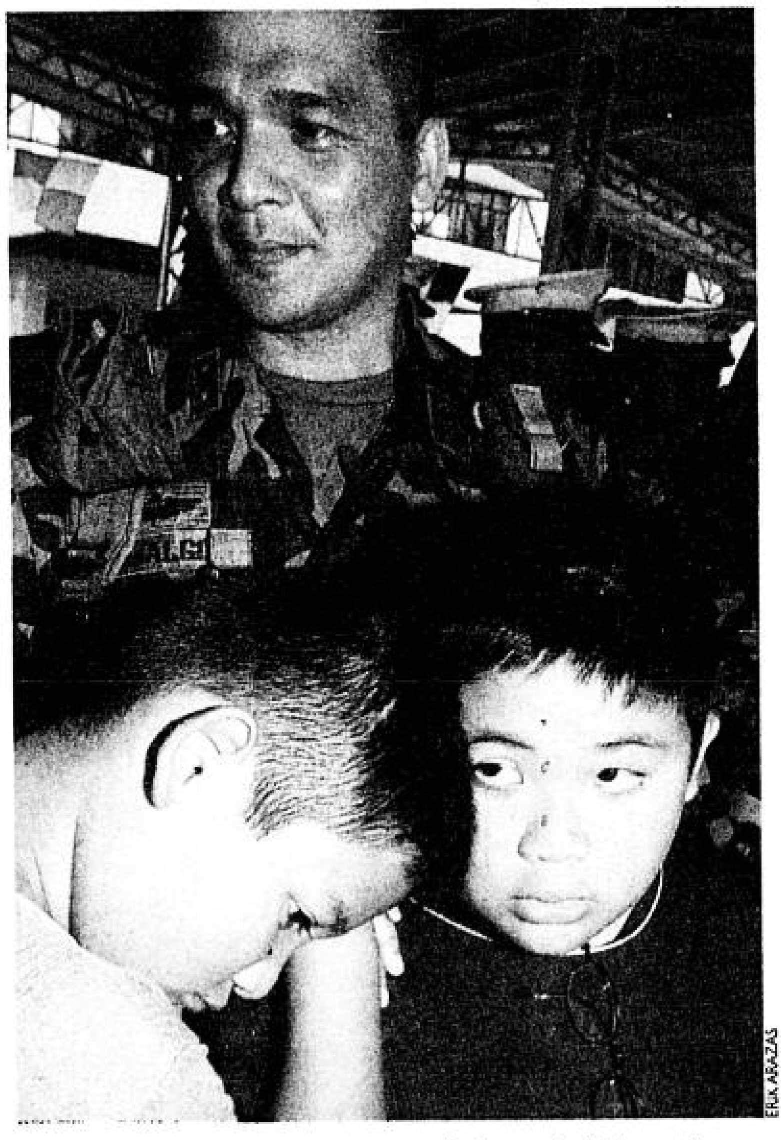
THE WIFE of the outgoing Armed Forces chief of staff wants Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago to name the spouses of senior military officials who are supposedly involved in "institutionalized" corruption in the AFP.

"Mrs. Santiago should name names. Pity those who are not guilty," Susan Abaya yesterday told reporters at the Navy headquarters in Manila. She said that she would "never be involved" in questionable deals, and that her close friends and associates would attest to this.

"They know me and they know that I would not do anything like that. I am not [like] that and I am not the wife of the chief of staff who is being alluded to. I will look anybody straight in the eye [and say] that I did my job well as wife of the chief of staff," added Abaya, wife of Gen. Narciso Abaya and undersecretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Santiago had earlier said the wives of senior officials led by the AFP chief of staff received a cash reward of around P100 million, which they used to buy expensive jewelry and luxury vehicles and to pay for trips abroad and the services of dance instructors.

ABAYA/ A18



ERIK ARAZAS

TROUBLE with goodbye is plain to see during send-off rites at the Navy headquarters for Marine Lt. Col. Romeo Tenalgo, who leaves behind two sons, Karl and Kevin, for his new posting in Patikul, Sulu.

Cops nab RP's most wanted criminal

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—Police yesterday announced the capture of an alleged kidnapper and hired gun tagged as the country's most wanted criminal.

But shortly after the Philippine National Police basked in the feat of arresting Ricardo Peralta, founder of the Red Vigilante Group based in Nueva Ecija, on Tuesday night, its score card was quickly challenged.

"He's our member and he's definitely no criminal," Nilo de la Cruz, spokesperson of the Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade (RPA-ABB) told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

A task force formed by Chief Supt. Quirino de la Torre, Central Luzon police chief, captured Peralta and his wife Tess at around 7 p.m. Tuesday in a

COPS NAB/ A4

'HONESTY IS THE BEST POLICY' ANG MGA SCOUTS!

Ombudsman wants boy, girl scouts to check AFP corruption

By Luige A. del Puerto and Armand N. Nocum

THE YOUTH can teach their elders a thing or too about fighting corruption in the military, according to two government agencies.

The Office of the Ombudsman wants children to

OMBUDSMAN/ A4

JDV wants House to end Garcia probe

By Cynthia D. Balana, Alcuin Papa and Armand N. Nocum

SPEAKER Jose de Venecia yesterday called for the termination of the House inquiry into the alleged corruption in the military, saying the hearings had established that the wealth of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was indeed unexplained.

De Venecia told reporters in an ambush interview that there was no need to extend the hearings being conducted by the committee on national defense chaired by Rep. Roilo Golez (Kampi, Parañaque) and the committee on banks headed by Rep. Jaime Lopez (Lakas, Manila).

"It's already proven that the wealth is unexplained. It's very clear. What more do you want to prove?" he said. Besides, he added, he did not want the two committees to engage in "large-scale witch-hunting."

The actual court-martial of Garcia may not start this week, as

JDV WANTS/ A18

Palace announces breakthrough on 'sin tax' bills

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE "HANDS ON" strategy of President Macapagal-Arroyo has broken the impasse on the measure raising taxes on cigarettes and alcohol products, Malacañang said yesterday.

"We have cleared a major obstacle to the passage of other tax measures at the soonest possible time," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

The President invited top executives of Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Philip Morris Philippines to her Forbes Park residence in Makati on Monday night when she unveiled a compromise sin tax meant to avert a delay in the passage of the bill raising taxes on cigarettes and alcohol.

The meeting was called after the ways and means committee of the House of Representatives decided not to index the taxes on tobacco and alcohol to inflation. It instead approved a 3-percent increase in 2006 and 2007.

The committee also watered down a tax hike on tobacco and alcohol, raising taxes by 20 percent next year rather than the 30 percent proposed by Malacañang.

Reacting to criticisms that House Bill No. 3174 had been watered down and that House members yielded to the wishes of cigarette manufacturers, Rep. Jesli Lapus, chair of the ways and

PALACE/ A8

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

THE GOLDEN YEARS: "Spectacular," was the rave review of the gala presentation of "Ginintuang Moreno," a tribute to Pitoy Moreno's 50 years in the fashion trade, graced by President Arroyo at the CCP Tuesday night.

'So moving to be with the children with special needs'

By Cheche V. Moral
Lifestyle

"IT WAS very moving to be with the children. I saw all kinds of children, many children with very special needs, children in jail, children who are given another chance," Princess Caroline of Monaco told the INQUIRER yesterday about how her three-day visit here with abandoned and neglected children had personally affected her.

She added during the exclusive interview that she hoped to see an "improvement in the conditions of the center of detention for children" the next time she visits.

She was referring to the Manila Youth Reception Center in Arroceros, which she visited last Monday.

"World progress is meaningless when there

SO MOVING/ A8

MOBBED by children of a lesser god, Princess Caroline shines in the midst of squalor at a Makati slum where she visited eight homes for abandoned and special children cared for and funded by the Virlanie Foundation. She left last night after a three-day visit here. REUTERS

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon and Eastern Visayas will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/28/04

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
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Palace shrugs off coup reports

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Alcuin Papa and Christine Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday dismissed rumors of a coup attempt as an investigation into corruption in the Armed Forces has reportedly stirred unease in the military.

"I can say that no coup attempt will succeed. The Armed Forces . . . is an effective institution," the President said in her first comment on the coup rumors.

Even so, the military was placed on red alert on Tuesday, following a stern warning from Ms Arroyo that she would "deal with destabilizers with an iron fist."

She also convened the Cabinet group of the National Security Council on Tuesday but Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the NSC meeting did not discuss the coup rumors but contingency measures for Filipinos living in war-torn Iraq.

Coup talk

Ed Pamintuan, head of the newly created Office of External Affairs, said the coup talk was mere rumor that was being fanned by "some disgruntled military officials [who are] exploiting the corruption scandal in the military, the rising incidence of hunger and escalating oil prices to advance their interest."

"But she [Ms Arroyo] has the strong support and backing of the military and of course the greater majority of the Filipino people. Whatever will be their justification for it, the people will not buy it," Pamintuan said.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, apparently set off coup jitters when he told AFP chief Gen. Narciso Abaya that three retired generals were plotting to destabilize the government.

Intention

"They may have the intention but I doubt if they have the capacity to launch a destabilization (attempt) or coup," Abaya told reporters yesterday.

But he said that since Biazon had said there was a possible destabilization attempt "I cannot say that there is no destabilization."

Abaya said Biazon did not give him the names of the retired generals.

He said the "red alert status" was raised because of possible communist rebel attacks.

Communist Party spokesperson Gregorio Rosal was "out in the media trying to take advantage of the situation . . . so we are just being cautious," he said.

Administration Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday said any coup attempt against the Arroyo administration because of the ongoing probe into military corruption would fail because there was no popular support for it.

"What's their cause? They don't have a good cause," Arroyo said.

Court martial

He said the people would not blame the Arroyo administration for the corruption in the military because the President has so far taken the right steps to arrest the situation like ordering the immediate court martial of Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia, the former AFP controller at the center of the corruption scandal.

Arroyo also noted that the military was "not united."

"There's honest officers and dishonest officers. And these honest officers won't join the coup of dishonest officers," he said.

Biazon said he had nothing to add to his earlier disclosure "because I've already raised the warning."

Told that the military had dismissed the coup reports, Biazon said the officials only did so "publicly."

The senator said there were "signs that indeed that there are certain movements but these are in [the] early stages."

Biazon said he agreed with some legislators who said the House hearings on the Garcia case should conclude now to allow "judicial processes to take over."

Amid coup rumors, the President reached out to opposition leaders to join her government of "national unity."

"I have invited Sen. Edgardo Angara and the party he heads to join me in forging a covenant of national unity," Ms Arroyo said in a statement.

"The severity of the looming fiscal and economic crisis demands that all political leaders and parties come together and transcend partisan interest and work for the common good," she said.

Angara, who was attending a conference in Berlin, said he would first consult the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino members before taking any position on the offer.

He said the President's call was "very important" and that all right-thinking leaders of the country should "make a response to that according to their light."

COA clears Garcia on cash advances

By Michael Lim Ubac

GARCIA

THE STORM that buffeted Winston Garcia, president and general manager of the Government Service Insurance System, could be finally over.

The Commission on Audit and the Department of Finance yesterday cleared him of any liability in the way he managed the state pension fund.

Testifying before the Senate committee on government corporations and financial enterprises, Aurora Funa, COA auditor for the GSIS, confirmed the authenticity of a certification issued to Garcia, which stated that he had liquidated all his cash advances.

"As far as the cash advances are concerned, we would like to confirm that said certifications were really issued because per verification in our records, all cash advances of PGM Garcia were really liquidated," Funa said.

Finance Undersecretary Jeremias Paul Jr., for his part, said the DOF supported the "reform effort of the GSIS."

Paul said the DOF would ensure that the pension would be "sustainable." A GSIS actuarial study shows that the present pension fund will last up to 32 to 45 years.

But an actuarial study presented during the senators' workshop on Saturday by economists Mario Lamberte showed that the deteriorating actuarial fund life and fund ratio of the GSIS would hit rock bottom in 2015.

But Lamberte, president of the Philippine Institute of Development Studies, said that based on projections on the GSIS social insurance fund, the yearly benefits would exceed contributions of the members only in 2024, expenses would exceed revenues in 2056 and reserves would run out in 2068.

"There should be a tight link between contribution and benefit because at the end of the day if the GSIS is bankrupt, it's the national government (which will shoulder the payment of benefits)," Paul said.

Sen. Richard Gordon, chair of the committee, and Enrile are unconvinced over the allegations of the Kapisanan ng mga Manggagawa sa GSIS and the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees that Garcia had mismanaged the agency.

"It seems that their explanations are not solid. I and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile were unconvinced," said Gordon after the hearing. "What we would want to look into is the reinsurance that they are talking about."

Gordon said the more wise decision was to allow Garcia to complete the reforms, including the computerization of the database (to be 95 percent completed by the end of the year), and meet quarterly every year to review the condition of the pension fund.

The hearing became a venue for the GSIS employees to repeat their complaints ranging from small benefits and slow processing of loans to the controversial purchase of paintings.

In the end, upon the prodding of Senators Enrile and Gordon, all agreed to meet again, and work together to make the pension system work.

Under questioning by Enrile, Garcia reiterated that the attacks against him were orchestrated by those behind the reinsurance business of government agencies and corporations such as the National Power Corp.

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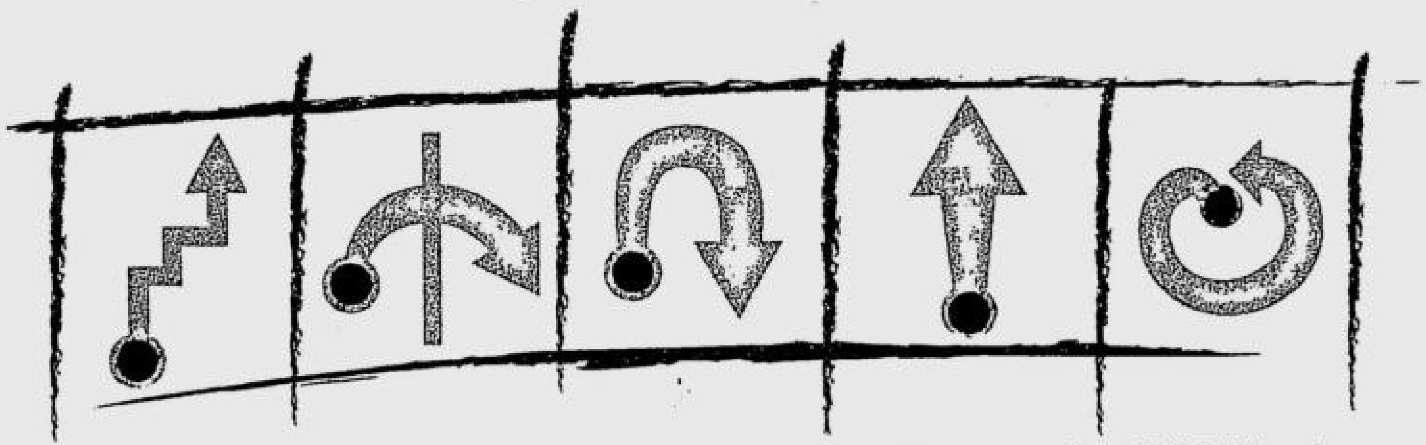

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DLX 1.8 GAS M/T [15.08%]	663,000	100,000	46,917	32,237	25,555	18,411	15,022	12,734
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Cops nab RP's most wanted criminal

From page A1

restaurant at the SM City Pampanga in the City of San Fernando, 5 km northwest of this camp.

De la Torre said arrest warrants had been issued against Peralta for three cases of kidnap-for-ransom, robbery and gun-for-hire. Except for robbery, the cases are nonbailable offenses.

The arrest came a month after PNP Director General Edgardo Aglipay announced the hunt for the country's top 10 criminals.

P1.2-M reward

Accused of masterminding a string of summary executions in Central Luzon, Peralta landed at the top of the heap, with authorities putting a P1.2-million bounty on his head.

According to De la Torre, RVG members carried out assassination missions for several businessmen and politicians. He did not name them.

Peralta declined to give a statement when the INQUIRER reached him in this police camp at past 9 p.m. Tuesday.

In an interview in August 2002, Peralta denied the allegations against him and his group.

By his own accounts, former New People's Army rebels formed the RVG in 1998 to mediate in agrarian disputes.

Peralta, the son of the late NPA commander Arcadio Peralta, left the NPA in 1988.

'People's army'

The RVG, he said, evolved into a "people's army" that rendered its own brand of justice on illegal drug traders, rapists, abusive landlords and other criminals.

"The PNP has ceased being the people's protector," Peralta then said, referring to the alleged involvement of police officials and men in criminal activities.

Gapan City, for one, has become the "*pusod ng droga* (the center of the illegal drugs trade)" in the region, he said.

The police likened the RVG to the Red Scorpion Gang that degenerated into a notorious criminal syndicate.

Also in 2002, the PNP launched Oplan Red Scorpion to hunt down the RVG members. Peralta's arrest ended the almost two-year campaign.

"*Kalokohan ang mga akusasyon ng pulis* (The police's accusations against Peralta are nonsense)," De la Cruz said.

In 2001, he said, the RVG surrendered its cache of firearms to the NPA to maintain peace with the latter.

Up in arms again

Shortly after, and as a matter of defense, the RVG took up arms again when the NPA killed one of its leaders.

The RVG, De la Cruz said, was integrated into the RPA-ABB in 2002 because it "never violated any basic principles of the revolutionary struggle."

Politician behind capture

"Contrary to the police claims, the RVG went after drug lords, illegal loggers and hired guns," he said.

He believed Peralta's capture was the handiwork of a Nueva Ecija politician who lost during the May 10 elections.

De la Cruz said the RVG refused to take part in the politician's plan to "subvert the electoral results" in the 2001 polls. This politician, he said, was known for his "warlord" reputation.

Peralta's arrest, he said, was a "grave violation" of the peace agreement between the RPA-ABB and the government.

Ombudsman wants boy, girl scouts to check AFP corruption

From page A1

monitor deliveries of goods to the Armed Forces of the Philippines, while the Commission on Audit hopes that the kids can also monitor the public bidding in graft-ridden agencies in lieu of COA resident auditors.

Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo is so impressed by the system initiated by boy scouts and girl scouts in checking ghost deliveries in the Department of Education (DepEd) that he wants to adopt it for the AFP.

"What is happening at DepEd inspires me," Marcelo said yesterday at an anti-corruption summit sponsored by the United Nations Development Program. "These are children, but they (have shown) that they can do something about it (corruption). Maybe this would inspire the old... that it is possible."

The Ombudsman is set to meet with officials of the AFP and the Department of National Defense to discuss the project. Once agreed upon, the antigraft body would look for recruits from schools closest to military barracks, and train them for the task.

If all goes well, the project could start in February, Marcelo said.

"We will ask (Defense) Secretary (Avelino) Cruz to have the same arrangement (as DepEd). If the military has a delivery, the supplier must let the private monitor (students) know about it, so that the latter can check if the delivery is accurate and the supplies are in good quality."

Ateneo-based G-Watch

G-Watch, an Ateneo-based group that specializes in the monitoring of procurement, has organized the project that Marcelo was referring to. The project requires DepEd and its suppliers to notify the scouts about an impending delivery of textbooks.

The scouts wait at the school on the scheduled day of delivery. They check the number of books and their physical quality. Older scouts then accomplish the section provided for in the Inspection and Acceptance Receipt for third-party monitors.

They sign the form if everything is in order, and make a report to the provincial coordinator and to DepEd via text messaging.

What makes it effective is that DepEd does not pay the supplier unless there is a certification from the scouts that the textbooks have been delivered, their number accurate, and their quality assured.

The project, started only this year, has so far been quite effective, according to Marcelo.

"These children ... They are able to do something very effective in curbing corruption at DepEd," he said.

In contrast to adults who just keep on talking about corruption, the children were showing what is to be done, Marcelo said.

Haydee Yorac, chair of the Presidential Commission on Good Government, has referred to this Filipino trait as the "tendency to talk an issue to death."

Marcelo believes the soldiers would not dare intimidate the children.

"How could they? They would be ashamed to do that. These are like their children already," he said, adding that the majority of soldiers, who are good, would not allow such an intimidation to take place.

Ghost deliveries stopped

Audit Commissioner Emmanuel M. Dalman said the scouts were able to stop "ghost deliveries" at DepEd.

"They even returned two weeks after the delivery of the books to schools to ensure that these were not returned to the suppliers," he said.

He said it would be better if non-government organizations would monitor the bidding, procurement and delivery of goods.

"If they are that daring to commit graft in the presence of these people, they can easily be detected," he said.

Debt of gratitude

Dalman acknowledged that some COA resident auditors may have been corrupted by officials in offices notorious for graft, including the AFP.

"I'm even suggesting that the COA auditor be withdrawn physically from the military. They should be made to hold offices right there in our central office," Dalman said.

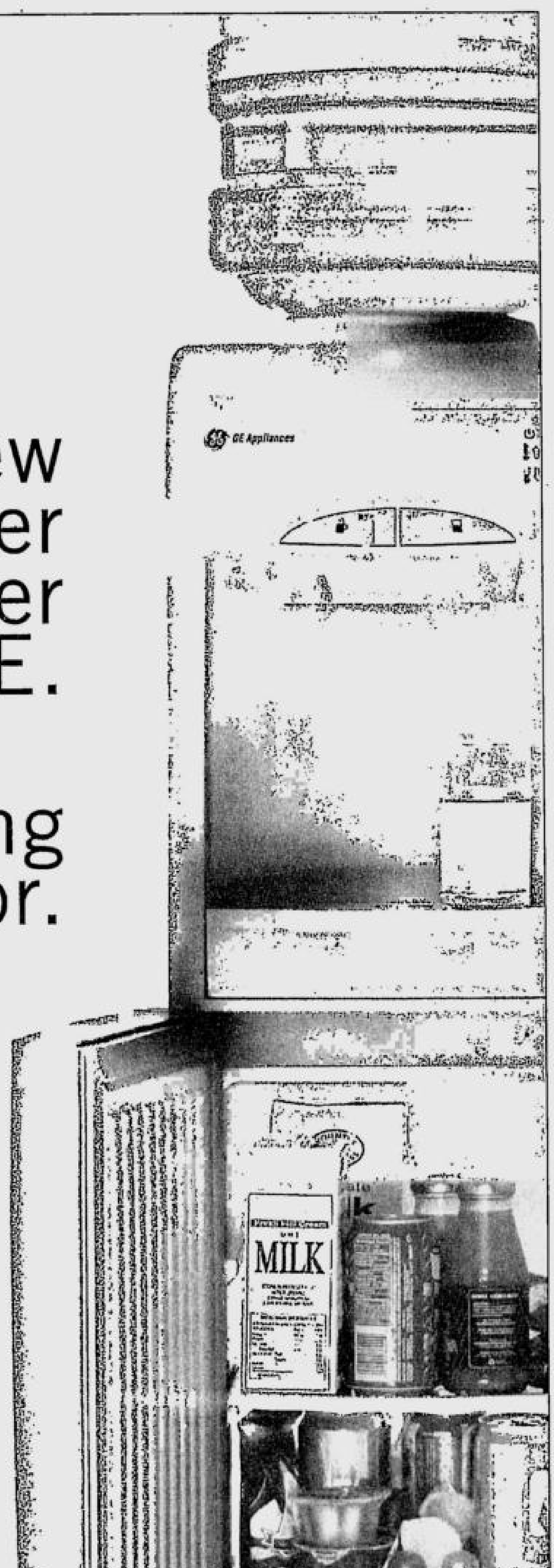
He made the remark when asked whether COA was investigating the resident auditor assigned to the AFP when Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia was the comptroller.

He said pulling out COA personnel from the AFP would prevent them from having "utang na loob (debt of gratitude)" to military officials.

Temptations

"If you assign them to offices where corruption is rampant, naturally they will be given posh offices, cars and given money to go on vacation in the US. You'll be open to all these temptations," Dalman said.

He said auditors no longer need to hold office in corrupt agencies because they were only doing "post audit" work.



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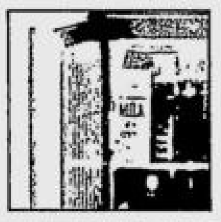

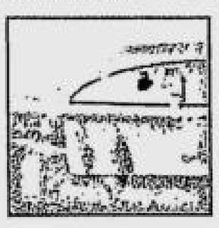

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, October 28, 2004
Simon and Jude, Apostles

1st Reading: Eph 2:19-22
Gospel: Lk 6:12-16

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him, and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew, James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Commentary

These could be the patrons of all anonymous people. Both of them have difficulty even in getting their names remembered! Simon is chiefly know as not Simon Peter! The gospel writers themselves call him by different names: Luke calls him "Simon the Zealot," Matthew and Mark call him "Simon the Canaanite." Nothing more that that is recorded of him! It's a slim CV! His companion Jude is likewise almost anonymous. There is difficulty about his name too: John calls him "Judas—not the Iscariot!" Luke calls him "Jude the brother of James," Matthew calls him "Thaddeus." Nothing is said of him in any of the gospels except that he asked a question, "Lord, what is all this about?" (Jn 14:22). The rest is silence. A New Testament letter bears his name, but scholars think it extremely unlikely that he wrote it.

Their egos left no trace—like the flight of birds in the sky. They are the patrons of the vast majority of all the Christians who have ever lived. There is a lot to be said for silence and anonymity: they can give depth. Without Simon and Jude the New Testament would be poorer; it would be all light and little shade. We might not so easily see ourselves in it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (PERSONS CRIMINALLY LIABLE)—Principals by direct participation—Two or more persons taking part in the commission of a crime are considered principals by direct participation if the following requisites are present: 1. they participated in the criminal resolution and 2. they carried out their plan and personally took part in its execution by acts which directly tended to the same end. Both requisites were met in this case. Two or more persons are said to have participated in the criminal resolution when they were in conspiracy at the time of the commission of the crime. To establish conspiracy, it is not essential that there be proof of the previous agreement and decision to commit the crime, it being sufficient that the malefactors acted in concert pursuant to the same objective. The prosecution was able to prove appellant's participation in the criminal resolve by his own admission. [Citations omitted.] [En Banc, Justice Corona, People vs Dacillo, G. R. No. 149368, April 14, 2004]

BY R. B. VERA

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RP pulling all stops to keep Pinoys out of Iraq

By TJ Burgonio

FOREIGN Secretary Alberto Romulo yesterday said he would exhaust all diplomatic means to convince Iraq's neighboring countries to stay the ban on foreigners crossing their borders into the war-torn state.

Romulo had dispatched Ambassador Roy Cimatu to the Middle East to appeal to the Kuwaiti government to reconsider its Oct. 20 decision to lift the ban on border-crossing, which he said would imperil the safety of Filipino workers.

The Secretary said that he would personally call on ambassadors of Iraq's neighbors, like Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and even Kuwait, to convince them to maintain the ban a little longer until after the Iraqi people vote in general elections in late January.

"I'm going to call on other ambassadors around Iraq to talk to them... to persuade them to give us this period that once election is held in Iraq, we can revisit it," he told reporters in an ambush interview in Makati City.

"I am confident that once people elect their government in Iraq, then there will be more stability," he added.

Romulo hinted that lifting the ban on border-crossing now was ill-advised because of the volatile situation in Baghdad and other parts of the country.

"We have to be cautious and careful. All we have to do is read the papers, all we have to do is listen to BBC, CNN, all the news outlets. We can see that it's fluid; it's not that safe," he said.

Reyes: What you see is what you get

By Gil Cabacungan Jr.

"I AM what I am."

This is Interior and Local Government Secretary Angelo Reyes' blunt reply to lawmakers who decried the former military chief's arrogant behavior in a congressional hearing on corruption in the military Monday.

"What you see is what you get. If I am offensive to some people by my way of speaking and by my way of answering statements, then that's just the way I am," said Reyes in a brief interview with reporters at the Presidential Security Group office in Malacañang.

Reyes had resented being dragged into the hidden wealth investigation on Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia and he did not hide this when Representatives Roilo Golez and Imee Marcos tried to pry deeper into his assets. Reyes blew his top when the lawmakers demanded that his 94-year-old mother (whom Reyes has a joint bank account containing P4 million) furnish her financial statement to the House committee on national defense and banks.

Reyes appeared to be taking in stride accusations that he was "being arrogant for delivering some curt or overly aggressive statements during the hearing."

"For those people who know me that is my way of talking when I am asked questions. I'm always emphatic, I'm always direct to the point. I have no intention of being overly aggressive or being disrespectful to hearing body or any body specifically. I was there in the spirit of cooperation," said Reyes who denied making any threats to the lawmakers after his appearance. "I'm not in the business of trying to threaten or make enemies with anybody."

Reyes did not betray any sign of concern that his actions in the House committee hearing would impact negatively on his affirmation by the Commission on Appointments. "What happens will happen," Reyes said.

REYES

Reyes also reiterated his view that the corruption charges against military officers were eroding confidence in the Armed Forces. "This thing is largely unproductive and the sooner we get over this personality-oriented personal-based differences the better for everybody," Reyes said. "The treatment of personal feuds and differences should be out of the scene. *Trabaho lang.*"

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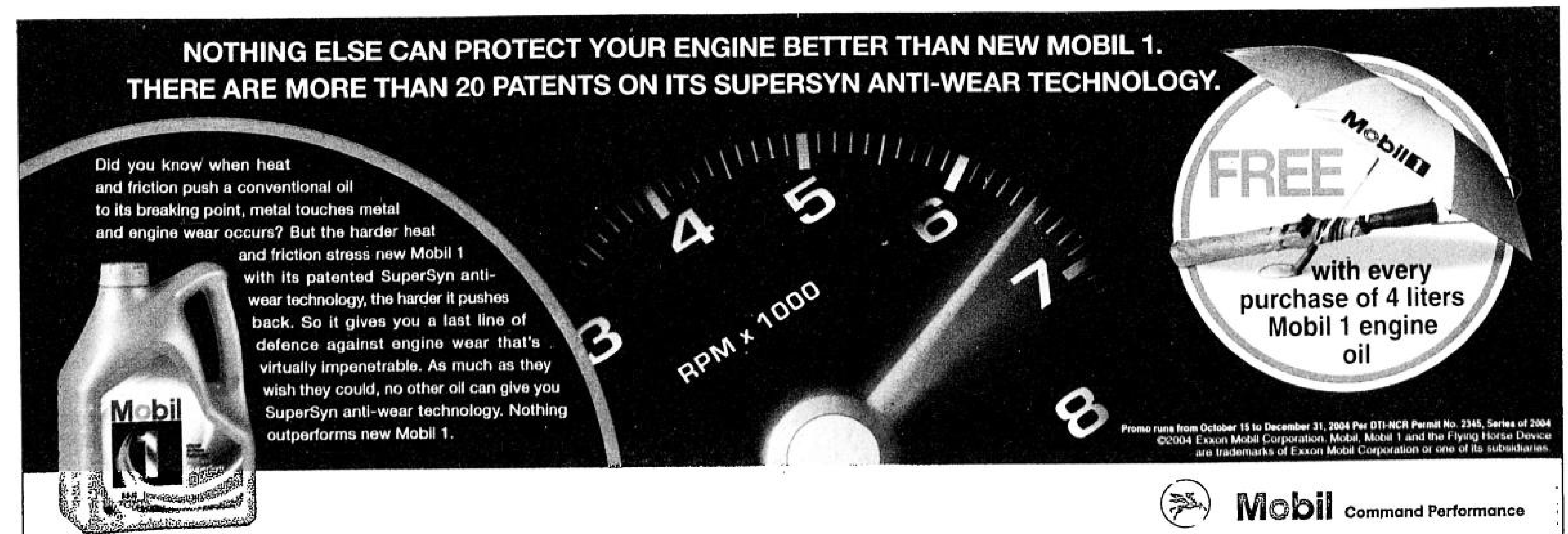
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Mathays ordered arrested for estafa

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

IMUS, Cavite—For allegedly falsifying a land title in a spurious land deal almost 12 years ago, former Quezon City mayor Ismael "Mel" Mathay Jr. and two members of his family have been ordered arrested by the Regional Trial Court of Trece Martires City.

According to documents obtained by the INQUIRER, Judge Aurelio Icasiano issued on Sept. 21 separate warrants of arrest for Mathay, his wife Sonia, and son Ismael III, or "Chuck," a former Quezon City congressman.

The arrest order stemmed from a criminal complaint for estafa filed by real estate company Solar Resources Inc. (SRI), owned by movie producer William Tieng, involving the sale of a 17.5-hectare lot worth more than P22 million.

The lot, located at the Sta. Cruz de Malabon estate in Trece Martires City, was said to be covered by a "judicially declared void and spurious certificate of land transfer."

Contacted by the INQUIRER, the senior Mathay yesterday expressed surprise over the arrest order against him.

In a telephone interview, he said he knew no reason why he or any member of his family would be ordered arrested.

"As far as I am concerned, all legal [issues] against the Mathays in Cavite have been settled. Maybe that is Sonia's transaction," he said.

He said he would issue a statement once he is furnished a copy of the warrant of arrest.

MATHAY

A provincial official, who asked not to be named, said the Mathays have remained at large as the court has yet to release copies of the warrants "for unknown reasons."

But copies of the warrants obtained by the INQUIRER indicated that the court had furnished copies to the National Bureau of Investigation, the Cavite provincial police and the San Juan police station.

In the documents, Sonia's and Chuck's addresses were listed as No. 2 Van Buren St., North Greenhills, San Juan, while the former mayor's address was listed as Chalram House, Salcedo Village, Makati City.

The complaint, filed by SRI president Roy Calleja on July 10, 2003, claimed that Mel Mathay executed a special power of attorney, dated Aug. 12, 1992, for his wife, Sonia, to sell the lot, which was covered by TCT 113047.

Calleja said Sonia then offered to sell the property, with a total land area of 174,987 sq. m., to their company.

In December 1993, SRI paid P22,157,260 for the entire lot.

A check with the Cavite Registry of Deeds, however, showed that the land title which the Mathays gave the SRI was bogus as it "emanated" from another fake land certificate covered by TCT 111070, supposedly owned by Pedro Banayo and Pablo Pugay.

Both the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court have ruled that the land title was fake.

Calleja said in his complaint that the titles supposedly belonging to the Mathays, Banayo and Pugay were "fictitious, spurious and void as they have no lawful source of origin."

The company later found that the real owners of the lot were Teodolo and Sylvia Atangan; Agustina and Amor Poblete; and Eduardo and Felicisima Tirona.

During the negotiations for the sale of the lot, Calleja said the Mathays misrepresented themselves as being in physical possession of the property by introducing "an unidentified person as their caretaker (who) turned out later to be a hoax."

Calleja said the company had repeatedly demanded, both in verbal and written form, that the Mathays return the money without success.

The prosecutor initially dismissed the complaint on the grounds that the Trece Martires court did not have jurisdiction. But the Department of Justice ruled on appeal on Aug. 27 that it had jurisdiction and directed the prosecutor to file a case of estafa against the Mathays. *With a report from Nelson Flores*

CA asked to reject bid to stop Cavite land deal

CAVITE Gov. Ireneo Maliksi has asked the Court of Appeals to junk the petition of Vice Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla to stop a compromise agreement between the provincial government and the owners of a 26-hectare property in Trece Martires City which is at the center of a 22-year-old expropriation dispute.

Maliksi asked the appellate court to dismiss Remulla's petition, claiming that the vice governor actively participated during the provincial council's deliberations that led to the approval of the agreement.

Maliksi said Remulla also had no legal standing to question the agree-ment as he was not a party to it.

"Politics has again reared its ugly head in this case... It is curious why he is now feigning ignorance as if somebody of great moral ascendancy has convinced him to change his mind," Maliksi said.

The appellate court earlier issued a temporary restraining order against the compromise agreement following Remulla's petition claiming that the compromise was disadvantageous to the province.

The TRO stopped the compromise agreement that Maliksi entered into with Sonia Mathay, the wife of former Quezon City mayor Ismael Mathay Jr. and Eleuterio Pascual on Feb. 27, 2004. It was approved by the Trece Martires City court on March 18.

Under its terms, the province agrees to return more than 19 hectares of the disputed land to its owners.

The provincial government expropriated the 26-hectare property in 1982 and has since developed it, constructing a sports complex, a forest park, a cemetery and resettled squatters on the site.

Mathay and Pascual, who claimed to have bought the land from original owner Marietta de Villa, pursued the suit that De Villa had started against the expropriation.

Mathay and Pascual also sought to nullify the donation in 1957 of 13 hectares by the De Villa family to the province of Cavite. *Philip C. Tubeza*

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MELISSAWATCH LAUNCHING

SC, new law strike blow for battered women, kids

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FILIPINO women scored a victory yesterday with the Supreme Court's launching of the implementing rules and regulations of the Republic Act 9262 or "Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act of 2004," according Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

"The antiviolence against women and children act, which was signed into law last March, can now be used and implemented in full force because there are guidelines," Soliman said during the launch of "MelissaWatch," a movement organized by friends and supporters of Melissa Mercado-Martel.

Melissa had filed frustrated parricide charges against her husband and mall scion Robert Puyat-Martel after he shot her in their Makati home late last year.

"We would make it our advocacy to inform women all over the country regarding the important provisions of the law and where they could go in case they need help," Soliman said.

Melissa's lawyer, Rowena Guanzon, said that if her client's case is "not addressed immediately, it could affect thousands of battered women nationwide."

"If Melissa, who has the education and financial resources, is experiencing difficulty with her case, what more the poor women all over the country?" Guanzon stressed.

MELISSA MERCADO-MARTEL

Guanzon said that a lot of problems they encountered were "due to the law's novelty."

"Many of the court personnel and even the executive judges were not aware of the law," Guanzon said. "On a scale of one to ten, we are giving the court personnel a rate of one in terms of awareness."

Guanzon said the objectives of the case would be to provide immediate relief and protection for victims including a stay-away order for the respondent and his removal from their residence regardless of ownership.

The lawyer added that the victim would also be entitled to support from the offender and custody of the minor children.

The law does not cover only husbands, but also covers live-in partners, boyfriends, dating partners, and women with whom the victims had lesbian relationships.

"We are grateful that the SC has now come up with the rules for the courts to follow," Guanzon said.

Melissa said that the law would enable Filipino women to live without fear.

"The pain I'm going through now is far worse that the pain I had to endure when my husband shot me," Melissa said.

She added quietly, "My husband is using people close to my heart against me."

Melissa said she and her lawyers would be accompanying the Department of Social Welfare and Development to speak before women all over the country regarding the new law and her crusade against violence.

Soliman said the DSWD with the Congressional Spouses Foundation have helped around 3,000 abused women in 13 havens nationwide in the first semester of 2004 alone.

"We have helped 6,000 women in our Alabang center alone," Soliman said, adding that they have identified poverty-stricken areas where high incidents of violence against women take place.

Women who need assistance could call MelissaWatch at 635-2307 and 0917-5034264.

NBI has nothing on Erap, says prober

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation found nothing that would link the alleged misappropriation of P170 million in excise tax funds in 2000 to then President Joseph Estrada and his friend Charlie Ang because its investigation failed to reach the two persons.

NBI regional director Carlos Saunar, the head of the NBI antigraft division that investigated Singson's allegations against the then President and his associates in 2000, yesterday told the Sandiganbayan that his division's investigation deemed it unnecessary to look into the alleged involvement of Estrada and Ang.

This developed as the prosecution panel tried to impress on the court, through Saunar's cross-examination, that instead of investigating the subjects of the corruption expose, the NBI investigated the culpability of "whistle-blower" Singson.

"We didn't reach that level," said defense witness Saunar during his cross examination by special prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio in the ongoing plunder trial against the former President, Ang and several others.

Saunar, who has since been re-assigned from the NBI central office in Manila to its field offices in Iloilo City and Zamboanga City, had earlier testified that there was nothing that would link Estrada and Ang to the alleged misuse of tobacco tax revenues.

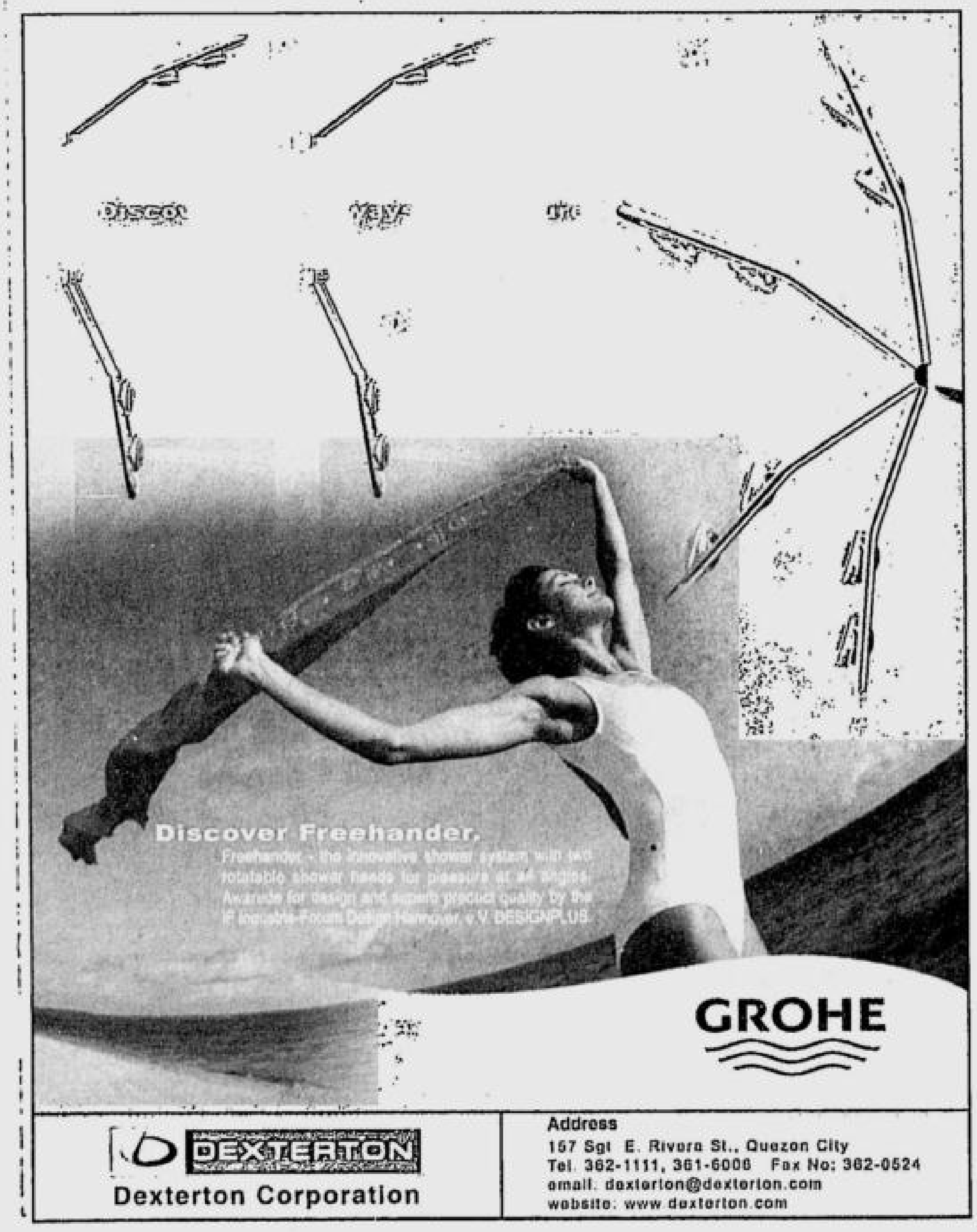
The defense witness admitted that their investigation had to include a probe of the "whistle-blower" Singson. The NBI investigation of the Ilocos Sur governor showed that Singson was the one responsible for the alleged malversation of the P170 million in excise tax proceeds.

"We also have to investigate the complainant in this case," Saunar said referring to Singson who charged in October 2000 that Estrada and Ang helped themselves to the proceeds of the tobacco excise.

Villa-Ignacio confronted Saunar with a memorandum from then Justice Secretary Artemio Tuquero that tasked the NBI's antigraft division to investigate Singson after he made the allegations against Estrada and Ang.

"What we established was there was an expose made by (Singson) against (Estrada and Atong Ang), and that the (Department of Justice) (chose) to investigate not the allegations but the whistleblower," Villa-Ignacio said.

The cross-examination further showed that the NBI investigation produced three reports on the matter with the last one recommending the filing of graft charges against Singson and several other officials of the Ilocos Sur provincial government.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Palace declares end of Ramadan a public holiday

MALACAÑANG has declared Nov. 15 a special non-working day throughout the country in observance of the Eid ul-Fitr or the Feast of Ramadan.

In Proclamation No. 721, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the declaration was made to "bring the religious and cultural significance of the Feast of Ramadan to the fore of national consciousness."

Ermita also noted the importance of promoting cultural understanding and integration by providing the "entire Filipino nation the full opportunity to join our Muslim brothers and sisters in observing and celebrating this important day."

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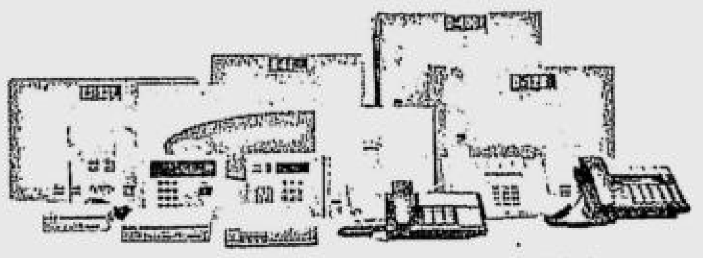

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But the day came when Mr. Roces, quite regrettably, passed away. And our account with his wife appeared doomed to follow in his footsteps as well.

Until we remembered that she had never, in all her years with us, come to the bank by herself. It was always an adventure she embarked upon with her husband. And something we couldn't expect her to do alone.

So we arranged for a driver to pick her up at her house and bring her over. Smiling awkwardly, she stepped into the car. And just as awkwardly, we stepped into the role long reserved for her husband.

Smile by smile, we navigated the course of her transactions with her. And told her that if she wanted, we could keep on doing the same thing for her every time she needed to visit the bank. Her smile was all the yes we needed.

We took her to lunch, too, that day. To a place that, to our knowledge, served the best papaitan in Manila (we had learned earlier that it was, strangely enough, her favorite dish). She talked about how she was coping with the loss of her husband, about how the house seemed too big now, about how helpful people had been to her. And how the papaitan fell somehow short of its billing.

We had the driver bring her back home and we heard nothing from Mrs. Roces for the next two weeks. And then she called, asking to be picked up. She had some deposits to make, she said. And a newly cooked pot full of what was truly, as we discovered, the best papaitan in Manila.

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Businessmen tell GMA: More economics, less politics

BUSINESSMEN want President Macapagal-Arroyo to start acting more like an economist than a politician as her government tries to avoid a looming Argentina-style fiscal crisis, the head of a prestigious business school said yesterday.

Former finance secretary Roberto de Ocampo, president of the Asian Institute for Management, remarked that "there has been more political maneuvering than actual economic measures," even though Ms Arroyo is a US-trained economist.

"People in the business community are really waiting for her to display a higher percentage of being an economist rather than... being a politician," De Ocampo told the Foreign Correspondents Association.

He cited her populist decision in 2002 to cut power rates—a move that caused the state-run National Power Corp. to incur huge losses, contributing to the worsening fiscal situation.

Whip-cracking

Ms Arroyo would have to do some "resolute non-political whip cracking" to implement measures that would boost revenues, shrink the budget deficit and attract foreign investment to convince the business community, De Ocampo said.

Concern over the fiscal crisis had changed the country's mood so that "a strong call to minimize politics from the leadership... would be heeded" as long as the President sets an example, he said.

Downgrade in 2 months

Ms Arroyo has been pushing for the passage of eight revenue measures to avert the fiscal crisis but only four are likely to be passed before year-end, Congress leaders say.

De Ocampo warned that international credit rating agencies could give the Philippines a downgrade in two months if they do not see proof that the government is taking the necessary measures.

"She will have to do something convincing," he said.

Despite the problems, De Ocampo said Ms Arroyo still had "an excellent chance," since her allies controlled both houses of Congress.

He warned that more revenue measures had to be passed, not just to shrink the deficit but to raise enough money to pay for much-needed infrastructure.

Ms Arroyo said earlier this week that the country had to swallow a "bitter pill" of economic reforms even if this resulted in a fall in her popularity. *AFP*

Palace announces breakthrough on 'sin tax' bills

From page A1

means committee, said in a statement that the bill could still be amended at the plenary sessions in the House.

In Ms Arroyo's compromise offer, the sin tax would be hiked by 12 percent and 40 centavos starting next year and by 3 percent from 2006 to 2010.

The compromise addresses the concerns of both Fortune Tobacco, which wants the tax hike in percentage to protect its low priced brands, and Philip Morris, which is pushing for an across-the-board flat rate increase that favors its premium priced brands.

The compromise formula would add P4.5 billion in new cigarette taxes in 2005, or slightly lower than the P5.7 billion in additional revenue expected from the 30-percent tax hike wanted by the Department of Finance.

The compromise formula is better than the P3.8 billion expected from the 20-percent increase proposed at the emerging version in the House of Representatives.

"Our economic managers will continue to work with lawmakers to optimize the terms and conditions of the proposed tax measure in the interest of fairness to business and maximum adherence," Bunye said.

The head of the Securities and Analysts Association of the Philippines, Astro del Castillo, said the watered down version of the tax measure was a "recipe for a credit downgrade."

Del Castillo was referring to warnings from Fitch Rating Agency, Standard and Poor's and Moody's Investors Service that the country could face a downgrade if it failed to pass this year tax measures that would address the budget deficit and public sector deficit.

A downgrade will sharply raise the country's debt costs.

GMA lauded

The President's decision to meet personally with the executives of Fortune and Philip Morris (they control 90 percent of the tobacco industry) was lauded by some business leaders.

"The President is just being realistic. Her meeting with the top industry players will ensure smooth sailing for the 'sin' taxes," said Donald Dee, executive vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The government has long been pushing for higher sin taxes since 1997 but the strong lobby by the tobacco and alcohol industry has foiled its previous attempts to peg taxes to inflation.

Personal touch

"We have a working President who always goes out of her way to talk to the stakeholders to fast-track any measure she deems important and urgent," said Francis Chua, executive vice president of the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"Her management style generates more cooperation and respect rather than resistance and resentment."

Jesus Arranza, president of the Federation of Philippine Industries, said there was nothing wrong with the President meeting with captains of industry because other foreign leaders were doing this to expedite reforms.

Arranza said the President's personal touch was required in the passage of sin taxes because it was a matter of national interest.

British tobacco firm bucks proposed tax

BRITISH American Tobacco cried foul yesterday over proposed excise taxes on tobacco and alcoholic products, which the global cigarette giant charged discriminated against smaller players in the domestic market.

The proposed law indexing excise taxes on these products for inflation is a centerpiece of President Macapagal-Arroyo's attempt to boost government revenues and avert economic collapse.

Discrimination

While supporting the proposed law on principle, the commercial director of BAT in the country, Dennis Belgira, said the emerging version of the legislation would perpetuate "the existing discrimination" against newer players like his company.

The House of Representatives bill "allows the existing un-level playing field to continue by classifying existing brands based on 1 October 1996 prices, whilst classifying new brands based on their current prices."

He warned that this provision was against non-discrimination provisions of international trade agreements.

Vital point

"We sincerely hope that this vital point will be considered in finalizing the bill in the bicameral committee" made up of House and Senate representatives," Belgira said.

Ms Arroyo met representatives of the tobacco lobby on Monday to call on them to accept higher taxes for the sake of the national interest.

Representatives of BAT, which has a small share of the local market for cigarettes, were not at the meeting, the company said. *AFP*

Bush-Kerry race deadlocked six days before US elections

From page A1

Pennsylvania—the three most important battlegrounds in the race for 270 Electoral College votes.

A Los Angeles Times survey joined a pile pointing to a national dead heat. Bush and Kerry were 48-48 in that poll.

With the possibility of another inconclusive election night looming, lawyers were already deep in courtroom entanglements in a variety of states over problems either anticipated or already experienced in states with heavy early voting.

Missing explosives

In one example, a federal judge in Miami ruled against Democrats in saying Florida election officials will not be required to process incomplete voter registration forms.

In his campaign sorties, Democratic challenger Kerry stressed that the United States was "in a bigger mess by the day," citing the murky fate of missing explosives in Iraq to sharpen the indictment of his Republican opponent.

On the other hand, Bush has put together an end game that includes persistent appeals for Democratic votes and a rarely used weapon in this bruising campaign—a positive commercial.

Spirit over substance

With their agendas laid out, Bush and Kerry are going for spirit over substance in the final days, trying to create an aura of excitement in get-out-the-vote rallies and snag the dwindling pool of voters who haven't taken sides.

Rockers Bruce Springsteen and Jon Bon Jovi were rejoining the Kerry campaign, minstrels in his fast-moving gallery. California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger is bringing his star power—and moderate Republican reputation—to Bush's side later in the week.

Bush turned to the iconoclastic Democratic Sen. Zell Miller of Georgia to introduce him Wednesday at Pennsylvania and Ohio events, in keeping with his late-breaking appeals to Democrats who aren't sold on their own party's nominee.

Bush has been talking up the "great tradition of the Democratic Party," citing the steeliness in crises shown by the likes of former US Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy, to make the point that Kerry doesn't measure up.

Kerry mentioned those presidents and more, saying great US leaders built alliances that protected this country while Bush "has failed in his fundamental obligation as commander in chief to make America as safe and secure as we should be."

Closing arguments

The Democrat was focusing on economic troubles of the middle class in a Sioux City speech on Wednesday before stumping in Minnesota and back in Iowa, at a Cedar Rapids event. According to aides, Kerry planned to blend his campaign's economic and foreign policy proposals as his "closing arguments" for change.

After ripping Kerry for weeks as an equivocator, Bush planned to close the contest with a 60-second commercial meant to show he's steady, trustworthy and compassionate in these dangerous times.

Aides said the ad included footage of an emotional president telling the Republican National Convention about meeting the children of slain US soldiers.

Even so, neither campaign was going upbeat, nor were their supporters.

Hard-hitting leaflets lined mailboxes in a dozen or so hotly contested states. A glossy mailing by the Pennsylvania Democratic State Committee showed burning roadside wreckage in Iraq, with US soldiers looking on, and the headline "Wrong Choices ... Less Secure."

A Republican National Committee mailing showed pictures of Jane Fonda and Michael Moore, two antiwar liberals supporting Kerry, and the headline, "John Kerry's heart and soul of America?"

Bigger mess

Kerry's latest ad accuses the Bush administration of failing to secure nearly 400 tons of explosives that disappeared from a military installation south of Baghdad around the time US forces were toppling Saddam Hussein's government, and he pressed the point at rallies on Tuesday.

Kerry said in Green Bay, Wisconsin, the explosives "could be in the hands of terrorists, used to attack our troops or our people."

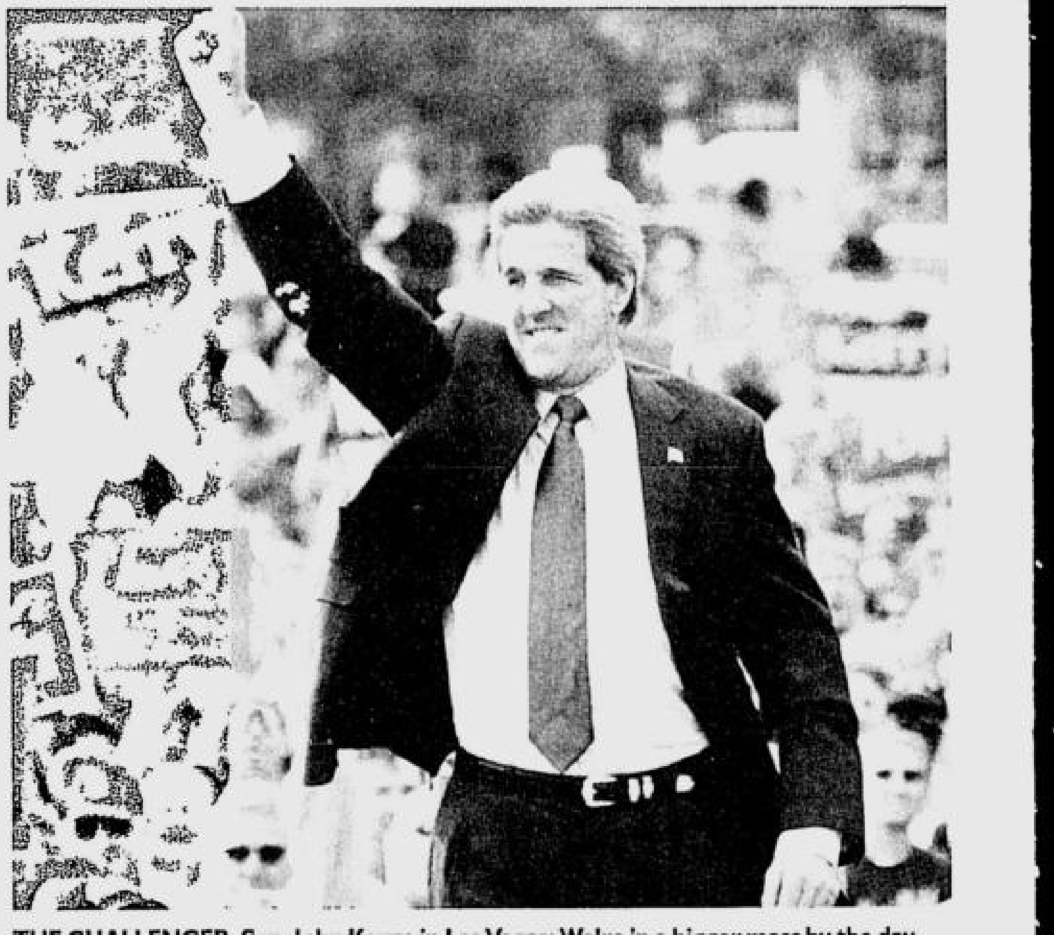
Going beyond the known facts, Kerry said later in Las Vegas that the explosives had actually been used against US troops.

"We're in a bigger mess by the day and this president can't see it or can't admit it, but either way, America is less safe," he said.

'Armchair general'

Vice President Dick Cheney, campaigning in Florida, called Kerry an "armchair general." "If our troops had not gone into Iraq as John Kerry apparently thinks they should not have, that is 400,000 tons of weapons and explosives that would be in the hands of Saddam Hussein, who would still be sitting in his palace instead of jail," he said. *AP*

THE SITTING President George W. Bush in Dubuque, Iowa: Kerry doesn't measure up to the great tradition of the Democratic Party and to likes of former US Presidents Franklin Roosevelt and John Kennedy. AP



THE CHALLENGER, Sen. John Kerry, in Las Vegas: We're in a bigger mess by the day and this president can't see or can't admit it, but either way, America is less safe. AP

'So moving to be with the children with very special needs'

From page A1

are unhappy children," Princess Caroline said, citing a famous quote in her speech in a symposium held at the Makati Shangri-La. The forum discussed Amade Philippines' proposal to the United Nations seeking to make "crimes against children crimes against humanity."

The princess is president of Amade Mondiale or World Association of Children's Friends, which her mother, the Hollywood icon Grace Kelly, founded in 1963.

"There is only one constant, the world's recognition that children are treasures," she said. "Crimes against children are a reality that must be squarely addressed, whenever and wherever the crimes are committed . . . World nations must stand as one in protecting our children."

The forum was the last event on her three-day visit. She left Manila last night aboard an Air France flight.

Unfazed by stench

Yesterday, the royal also made her rounds of the Virlanie Foundation's shelters in Makati. She was accompanied by Virlanie founder Dominique Lemay and French Ambassador Renee Veyret.

Virlanie is a beneficiary of Amade Mondiale.

The princess walked through a dark narrow alley in the congested slums in Barangay Singkamas, the entire time unfazed by the stench. She also went in to examine one of the shanties. By the time she left, mud had caked on the hem of her pants.

"*Ate, ate nakita ka namin sa TV kagabi* (We saw you on TV last night)," screamed the young kids. The princess was all smiles, clueless of what the kids were saying. "*Sino po ba siya* (Who's she)?" curiously asked another girl.

"The princess said it must be very difficult to live like that," Lemay said. "What if there's a fire?"

In one of the homes, she gamely sat a young girl on her lap, cooing and fussing over the girl. The girl refused to let go of the princess' embrace. "What am I going to do with you now?" the princess asked in jest. She's herself a mother to four children.

When asked what her message was to the government and the Filipino people, the princess simply said, "I had met with the President so I think that's it."

Visits to Subic, Clark

On Tuesday, the royal visited children who had gotten sick from the toxic wastes left by the former US bases in Subic and Clark.

In her speech, she said she had personally asked US President George W. Bush for his "intervention to expedite the necessary countermeasures to redress this critical and life-threatening situation and to provide much-needed humanitarian aid and compensation to the victims and their families."

Sadly, she was told that the Philippine government had agreed to free America of any legal obligations after the departure of the American military.

Moral concern

But the princess said "the issue of concern is not legal, but moral. "To redress the pitiful conditions that our children find themselves in, for reasons not of their own making is a matter that . . . should be defended, if not as a matter of legal obligation then as the right and moral thing to do."

International crime

At the dinner fund-raiser on Monday, she said, "One of these days, street children will be an anomaly, incarcerating children will be taboo, and exposing them to hazardous conditions will be an international crime whose perpetrators will be punished."

Early Monday morning, she visited a decrepit shelter for vagrant families and a cramped detention center for youths in Manila. She later shared a simple lunch with wards of Virlanie at the Makati Coliseum.

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guecd

'No order to search for explosives'

EVANSVILLE, Indiana—One of the first US military units to reach the Al-Qaqaa military installation south of Baghdad after the invasion of Iraq did not have orders to search for the nearly 400 tons of explosives that are missing from the site, the unit spokesperson said Tuesday.

When troops from the 101st Airborne Division's 2nd Brigade arrived at the Al-Qaqaa base a day or so after other coalition troops seized Baghdad on April 9, 2003, there were already looters throughout the facility, Lt. Col. Fred Wellman, deputy public affairs officer for the unit, said.

The soldiers "secured the area they were in and looked in a limited amount of bunkers to ensure chemical weapons were not present in their area," Wellman wrote in an e-mail message to The Associated Press. "Bombs were found but not chemical weapons in that immediate area.

"Orders were not given from higher to search or to secure the facility or to search for HE type munitions, as they (high-explosive weapons) were everywhere in Iraq," he wrote.

The 101st Airborne was apparently at least the second military unit to arrive at Al-Qaqaa after the US led invasion began. Pentagon spokesperson Bryan Whitman told The Washington Post that the 3rd Infantry Division reached the site around April 3, fought with Iraq forces and occupied the site. They left after two days, headed to Baghdad, he told the newspaper for Wednesday's editions.

Associated Press Correspondent Chris Tomlinson, who was embedded with the 3rd Infantry but didn't go to Al-Qaqaa, described the search of Iraqi military facilities south of Baghdad as brief, cursory missions to seek out hostile troops, not to inventory or secure weapons stockpiles. One task force, he said, searched four Iraqi military bases in a single day, meeting no resistance and finding only abandoned buildings, some containing weapons and ammunition.

The enormous size of the bases, the rapid pace of the advance on Baghdad and the limited number of troops involved, made it impossible for US commanders to allocate any soldiers to guard any of the facilities after making a check, Tomlinson said.

Pentagon officials could not be reached for comment Wednesday night. A spokesperson for the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia, said the unit was checking on whether any of its troops was at Al-Qaqaa.

The disappearance of the explosives was first reported in Monday's New York Times and has subsequently.become a heated issue in the US presidential campaign, with Vice President Dick Cheney questioning on Tuesday whether the explosives were still at the facility when US troops arrived. The Kerry campaign called the disappearance the latest in a "tragic series of blunders" by the Bush administration.

Two weeks ago, Iraq's Ministry of Science and Technology told the International Atomic Energy Agency that the explosives had vanished from the former military installation as a result of "theft and looting... due to lack of security." The ministry's letter said the explosives were stolen sometime after coalition forces took control of Baghdad on April 9, 2003. *AP*

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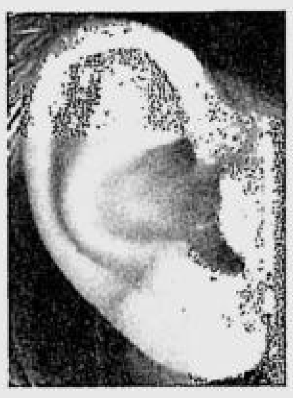

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Japan won't withdraw troops from Iraq

KODA

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi insisted on Wednesday that Japan would not withdraw its troops from Iraq despite a threat by a militant group to behead a Japanese hostage unless Tokyo pulled them out.

The crisis is a political challenge for Koizumi, who decided to send Japanese troops to Iraq despite strong public opposition.

"We cannot tolerate terrorism and we will not give in to terrorism," Koizumi told reporters.

"We will not withdraw the Self-Defense Force (SDF)," he added, referring to the Japanese military.

The hostage taken in Iraq by a group led by al-Qaida ally Abu Musab al-Zarqawi had been identified as Shosei Koda, 24, of Fukuoka in southern Japan, government officials said. His family said he had been traveling abroad.

Al-Qaida Organization of Holy War in Iraq gave the Japanese government 48 hours to withdraw its troops from Iraq, "or this infidel will meet the same fate as Berg... and the other infidels," the group said, in a reference to American Nick Berg, who was beheaded in May.

A video posted on a website often used by militants showed Koda, with long hair and a thin beard, seated in front of three masked men and a black banner bearing the group's name.

"They want the Japanese government and Prime Minister Koizumi to withdraw Japanese troops from Iraq or they will cut my head (off)," Koda said in English and then in Japanese.

"I am sorry. I want to go back again to Japan," he added in Japanese.

As one militant read out a statement, another grabbed Koda by the hair and pulled his head up to face the camera.

Zarqawi's group is blamed for Iraq's bloodiest suicide bombings and hostage beheadings. Last week the Jordanian militant pledged allegiance to al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Koda's family told public broadcaster NHK that Koda had gone abroad in January and started a working holiday in New Zealand in July. They had not been told of his trip to Iraq.

"He didn't tell us. I guess he thought we'd oppose it," Koda's father told NHK.

Media reports said Koda was working at a hotel in Jordan and had told his colleagues that he wanted to go to Iraq.

"We are trying all we can to secure his release, through government channels and through Iraqis," Koizumi later told parliament. *Reuters*

Kerry, Bush: the battle of the Yale old boys

NEW HAVEN, Connecticut—Next week's US presidential election will be followed with more than usual interest in the corridors of Yale University, which counts both President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger John Kerry among its alumni.

"The existence of a competition between two Yale men... is not going unnoticed by our undergraduates who would like to be political leaders in the future," said William Foltz, chair of the university's International Affairs Council.

"I don't detect much support for Mr. Bush on the campus," Foltz said.

One of the most prestigious academic institutions in the country with some 11,000 students, Yale has traditionally been seen as a Democrat-leaning school.

The university has produced four living US presidents: Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and the current White House incumbent.

Yale Students for Bush chairman Robert Chung, said he would not be surprised if a majority of Yale voters cast their ballots for Kerry, although he took issue with the university's liberal image.

"The reason, I believe, that Yale is seen as a very liberal school is because the liberals are the most noisy group on campus," Chung said. "They attract a lot of attention."

Lowell Levin, a retired professor who taught at the university when Bush and Kerry were both students, identified the Democratic Senator from Massachusetts as the more typical Yale man.

"Kerry has a demeanor which is more sophisticated," Levin said.

"Bush tries hard to appeal to a different group by behaving and talking in a certain way and putting down literacy as an unimportant factor. He claims he doesn't read newspapers... that kind of thing," he said.

Neither candidate harps on about his time at Yale, which along with other so-called Ivy League universities like Princeton and Harvard has an elitist image associated with blue-blooded New England families.

"He and I, we went to the same university. We are both very privileged," Kerry said in one rare reference. "He thinks its entitlement."

Yale was founded in 1701 in New Haven, Connecticut, the current president's birthplace.

Bush graduated with a degree in history in 1968, while Kerry finished his studies in political science two years before.

At that time, female students were not yet admitted and foreign students were relatively few and far between. Today women account for half the student body.

It was also a period when campus societies were extremely popular including the secret "Skull and Bones" club, of which Bush and Kerry were both members.

While Bush was known more for his social activities, Kerry used Yale to take his first steps on the political ladder, becoming president of the Union debating club like many future politicians before him.

Bush joined the Yale chapter of the Delta Kappa Epsilon fraternity, whose current president Richard Shanor, said he was "very proud" to have a "brother" in the White House.

"This university brings out in people a political awareness that I don't think exists in a lot of universities," Shanor said.

Foltz agreed that Yale continued to view itself as a place that prepares people for leadership.

"If Yale tries to pretend that it's not an elite institution it looks foolish," Foltz said. "It really is. That's been constant. What has changed is the nature of the elite. It is much more cosmopolitan than it was before." *AFP*

Thai PM apologizes for deaths of 78 Muslims in custody

BO THONG, Thailand— Thailand's prime minister apologized Wednesday for the deaths of 78 Muslim detainees who were suffocated or crushed while crammed into army trucks after a riot, but insisted that his security forces were "soft" on the rioters.

Grieving relatives flocked to a military camp to claim the bodies, and outraged Islamic leaders warned the deaths could worsen sectarian violence in the Muslim-dominated south of predominantly Buddhist Thailand. More than 400 people have been killed this year in the revival of a long-simmering insurgency.

An Islamic opposition party in neighboring Malaysia—where Thai officials say some of the insurgents are based—denounced the crackdown in Thailand as a "holocaust."

Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said that "there were some mistakes," and that authorities lacked enough trucks to properly transport the 1,300 people arrested in Monday's riot in the southern province of Narathiwat because it was a public holiday.

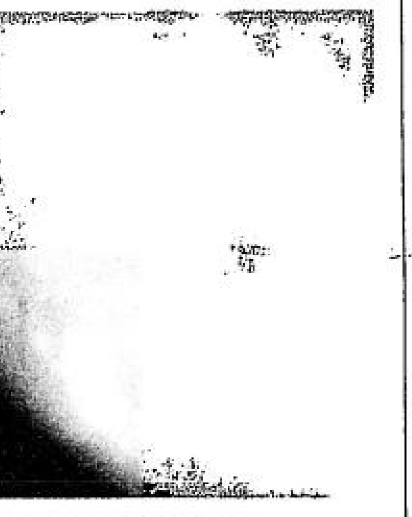
Authorities had to "pile them up on top of each other, and they died," he said.

"We are sorry for that, sorry they met an untimely death," he told the Thai Senate, which had demanded an explanation for the deaths.

But Thaksin insisted the military had used "the soft approach," and that soldiers "did not fire a single round into the crowd... They fired into the air and used only clubs and rope to tie their hands—that's the normal practice for controlling mobs."

Gen. Sirichai Thunyasiri, commander of a task force on security in that region, said the military used only four trucks to transport more than 1,300 detainees, and that they spent more than six hours in the vehicles before arriving at an army camp in a neighboring province.

Thaksin and other Thai officials have sought to pin part of the blame for the deaths on the detainees' weakness due to dawn-to-dusk fasting during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, saying they died of dehydration or suffocation. *AP*


CLOSEST ENCOUNTER
This image taken Tuesday by the spacecraft Cassini is one of the closest ever of Saturn's hazy moon Titan. At its closest, Cassini was 1,200 km above the moon, 300 times closer than during its first flyby on July 3, 2004. AP

Prehistoric dwarf skeleton found on Pacific island

DENVER—In a breathtaking discovery, scientists working on a remote Indonesian island say they have uncovered the bones of a human dwarf species marooned for eons while modern man rapidly colonized the rest of the planet.

One tiny specimen, an adult female measuring about 91 cm tall, is described as "the most extreme" figure to be included in the extended human family. Certainly, she is the shortest.

This hobbit-sized creature appears to have lived as recently as 18,000 years ago on the island of Flores, a kind of tropical Lost World populated by giant lizards and miniature elephants.

She is the best example of a trove of fragmented bones that account for as many as seven of these primitive individuals. Scientists have named the new species Homo floresiensis, or Flores Man. The specimens' ages range from 95,000 to 12,000 years old.

"So the 18,000-year-old skeleton cannot be some kind of 'freak' that we just happened to stumble across," said one of the discoverers, radiocarbon dating expert Richard G. Roberts of the University of Wollongong in Australia.

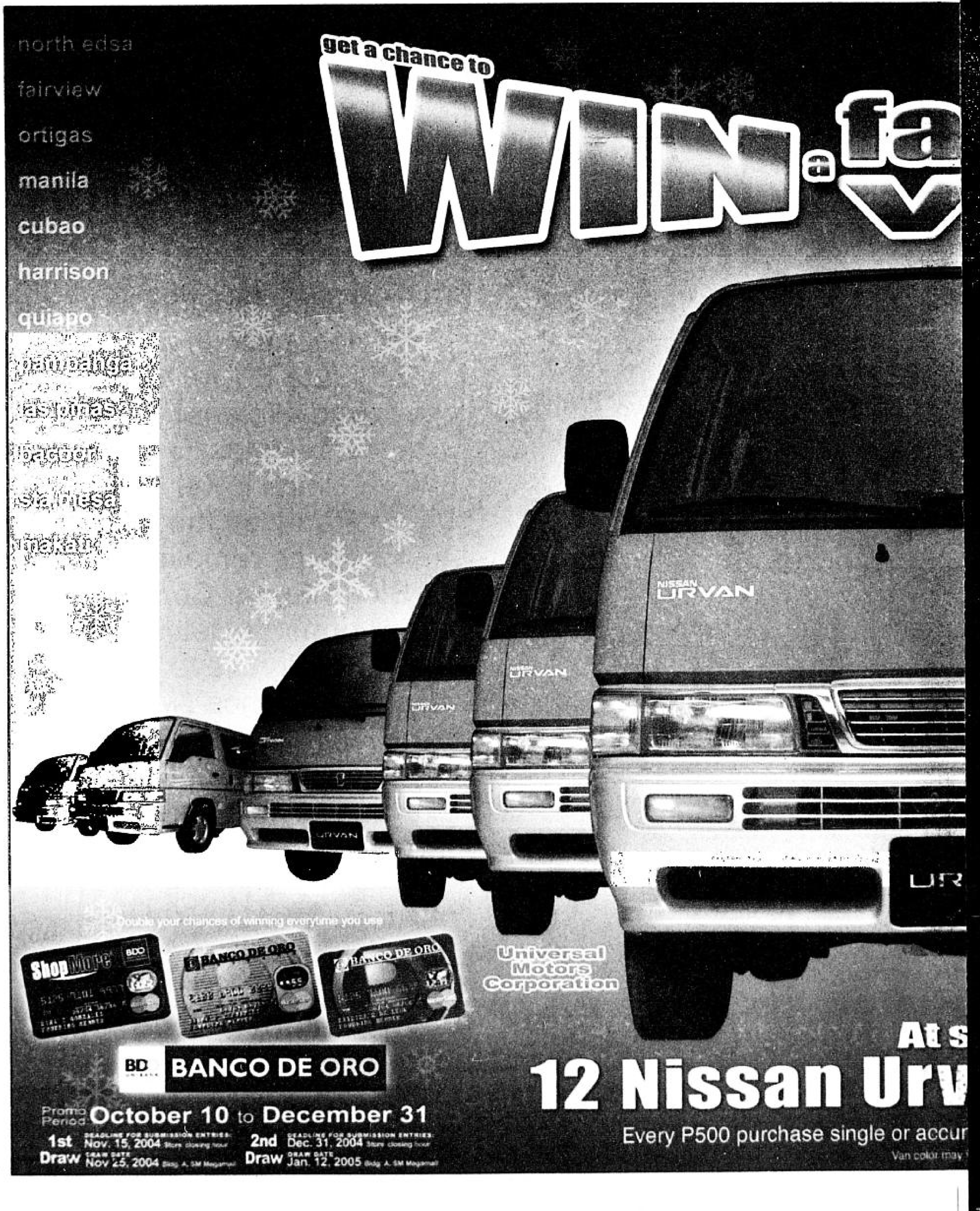
Flores Man was hardly formidable. His grapefruit-sized brain was about a quarter the size of the brain of our species, Homo sapiens. It is closer in size with the brains of transitional prehuman species in Africa more than 3 million years ago.

Yet evidence suggests Flores Man made stone tools, lit fires and organized group hunts for meat.

"It is arguably the most significant discovery concerning our own genus in my lifetime," said anthropologist Bernard Wood of George Washington University, who reviewed the research independently.

Details of the discovery appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

Researchers from Australia and Indonesia found the partial skeleton 13 months ago in a shallow limestone cave known as Liang Bua. The cave, which extends into a hillside for about 40 meters, has been the subject of scientific analysis since 1964. *AP*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Three Japan quake victims found after 4 days

TWO-YEAR-OLD Yuta Minagawa is rescued from a buried car in an earthquake-triggered landslide in Nagaoka, northern Japan. REUTERS

TOKYO—A woman and two young children buried for four days after a deadly earthquake in central Japan were pulled alive from the rubble Wednesday as another powerful temblor rocked the region.

A dozen rescue workers dug with shovels through rocks in Nagaoka, one of the cities most severely affected by the quake, to get into contact with the family trapped in their car.

"Specially trained rescuers sent from Tokyo have confirmed all of the three are alive," said Kazuhiro Noguchi, a local government spokesperson, "but either the mother or the girl needs to receive life-saving operations."

The 2-year-old boy was lifted into a helicopter hovering above and rushed to hospital, as national television broadcast the saga live.

Mother Takako Minagawa, 39, her daughter Mayu and her son Yuta were all in the car when it was buried by a landslide during the initial quake of 6.8 on the Richter scale Saturday.

At least 31 people have died since Saturday's initial tremor and from stress amid the hundreds of aftershocks.

Quake survivors grappling with the aftermath experienced another tremor measuring 6.1 on the Richter scale which was powerful enough to sway buildings in Tokyo, 200 km to the southeast.

The tremor sent quake victims in shelters hurriedly lying down on the floor for their safety. About 86,000 people are still lodged in hundreds of shelters across Niigata province.

Public broadcaster NHK said some 20 people were injured in the latest tremor.

In Ojiya city, the hardest hit by the initial quake, an apartment building collapsed and damaged an adjacent clinic but two residents inside were rescued unharmed, a municipal official said.

The latest tremor also triggered at least one landslide and violently shook elevated rail tracks of Japan's bullet train—which was derailed for the first time in its 40-year history by Saturday's quake.

Workers who had been trying to lift derailed train cars were seen scurrying back as the wagons shook with the new tremor. The Niigata train station was shut down for several hours Wednesday amid fears it would collapse, a local official said. *AFP*

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Harry Sevilla, Cagayan de Oro City

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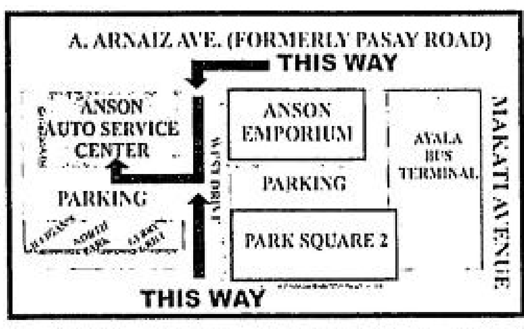
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EDITORIALS

Royalty

IF there is justice in this world, no Filipino children would be at the mercy of toxic wastes left at the former US military bases in Clark and Subic. If there is justice in this world, they would—like all children should—be happily at play and looking to a future brimming with hope. They would not be grievously ill, their bodies riddled by afflictions directly caused by the toxins still enveloping their homes, poisoning the water they drink and the very air they breathe. Quite simply, they would not be dead.

More than a decade after the US bases on Philippine soil were closed down in September 1991, toxic waste contamination remains an undiminished plague. Yet the cleanup long demanded of the United States by various groups is not tagged high priority in Philippine government projects. Nowhere is it mentioned in President Macapagal-Arroyo's 10-point agenda (unless "the development of Clark and Subic as the best international service and logistic centers in the region" includes it, although that's a bit of a stretch); it did not even merit lip service in her perfervid spiels during the election campaign. Even otherwise attentive observers forget, momentarily riveted as they are by the increasingly difficult business of living, as well as by the scandals on unexplained wealth. Yet the problem continues to fester, like a boil slowly coming to a head.

On top of her commitments as president of Amade Mondiale (and true-blue member of royalty), Princess Caroline of Hanover has been requested to tell the world the story of the stricken Filipino children at the former US bases. As reported by the INQUIRER, the princess acknowledged the request of 7-year-old Michael Pili's grandmother Norma, who, in voicing it to the esteemed visitor on Tuesday, managed to convey the desperate nature of their existence. Michael is one of 500 children whose illnesses have been directly linked to toxic waste contamination. There are many others like them whose cases are undocumented; some have given up the ghost.

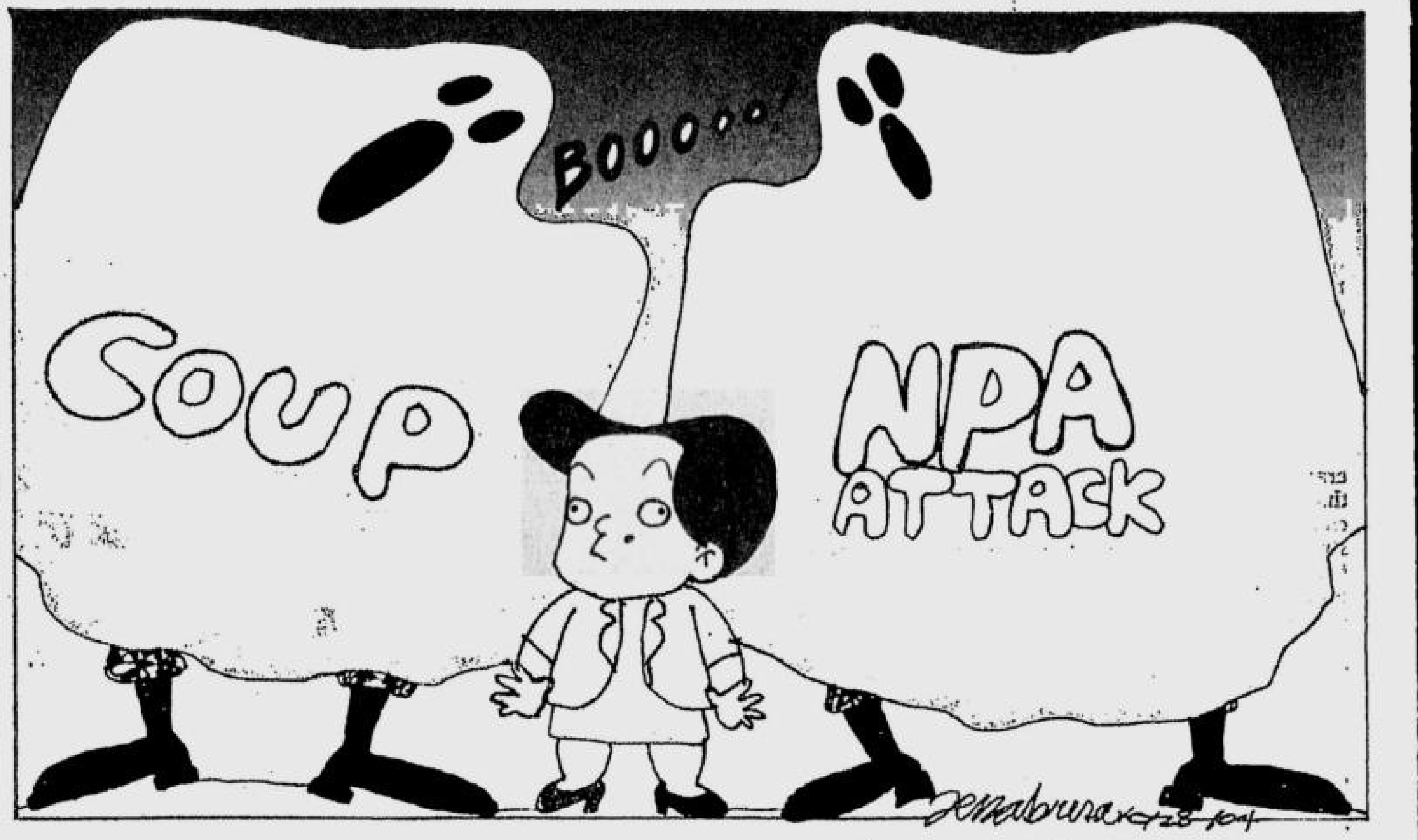
Michael's grandmother in effect conveyed that if her government could not, or would not, do something about him and others like him, perhaps Caroline of Hanover would. Not that the grandmother was grasping at straws in nursing that hope. By accounts, the princess is of a different mold and does not belong to the category of the merely decorative. She had written US President George W. Bush as early as 2002, seeking the cleanup of the former American bases as well as compensation for the victims of toxic waste contamination. And Amade, along with the Philippines' Alliance of the Bases Cleanup, has brought the issue to the United Nations. (Compare this with the slow action of the Philippine government, which did not even have the spine to push the cleanup as a fair exchange for its swift, unequivocal support for the US-led "war on terror" and subsequent invasion of Iraq.)

Class

CLASS is as class does. Princess Caroline's brief stay in the Philippines to visit and raise funds for the facilities of the Virlanie Foundation Inc. is remarkable for its being low-key—in more ways than one. In her visits to shelters for single mothers, street children and other minors involved in crime or victims of abuse, or the Madapdap resettlement site in Mabalacat, Pampanga, she was noteworthy for a simplicity of appearance and manner. (On television, a 14-year-old victim of rape who had, with others like herself, just sung for the princess, said she was moved to tears by the latter's quiet, appreciative presence. It was as though, the girl said, not without a tinge of wonder, Caroline understood her plight.)

This simplicity, at once both elegant and intense, imbues in the princess a certain power and makes of her a worthy president of Amade Mondiale, otherwise known as the World Association of Children's Friends. She commands attention because of it, and thus effectively serves to focus attention on the state of some of the unfortunate children on the planet, and what prosperous countries and sectors can do to help.

Caroline of Hanover calls to mind what Daniel Barenbolm wrote of the late literary critic and activist Edward Said, who, he said, had a "musician's soul" and "knew quite well that in music, force is not power, something that many of the world's political leaders do not perceive." Long may her star shine.



Generals in Asean's 'laggard'

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

TODAY'S uproar over graft committed by some military officers has retailored an old Indonesian joke: What's the four-point formula for hitting the economic jackpot? Answer: American capital, Japanese equipment, Filipino manager—and Indonesian general.

Sadly, it's a local wisecrack now. Former AFP comptroller Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia's corruption cases recall, for some, Sir Conan Doyle's question: "Do we have here Napoleons of crime?"

Unfortunately, the cases and essential investigation blindside the Armed Forces, a critical institution where most soldiers remain "straight arrows." The majority retain their professionalism, despite the "Rolex 12 Syndrome" of systematic suborning of the military by the Marcos dictatorship. People, therefore, gag when Rep. Imee Marcos or Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile strut as manicured "reformers."

But citizens share with soldiers a sharp sense of betrayal. The People Power Constitution, after all, designated the Armed Forces as "protector of the people and state." Nothing exudes more stench than tainted honor.

Unfortunately, we are a people with short memories. Our attention, critics insist, flits from scandal to scandal. "There is only silence or scandal," Andre Maurois once wrote. Thus, a Joseph Estrada, necklaced with plunder raps, banks on amnesia to offer straight-faced an "alternative leadership."

Will reforms emerge? Serial scandals also blot out equally critical issues. In June, manual voting and a filibuster-marred canvass traumatized the country. And in September, 11 University of the Philippines professors jolted us with "The Deepening Crisis," a study on runaway deficits and public debt.

Since then, overdue electoral reforms have "fallen by the wayside." It seems that only a drastic downgrade of our international credit rating will jerk our attention back to that economic rescue package. There's danger we'll again be distracted by Advent Season scandals.

We continue to need "voices in the wilderness"—people who refuse to be discouraged, and strip away our complacency.

The UP Eleven did that. INQUIRER's Solita Collas Monsod does it with panache. Peter Wallace's trend tracking—in the 1960s, when we ranked second to Japan, to today when Vietnam is overtaking us—helps.

Now comes Dr. Romulo Virola. The National Statistical Coordination Board secretary general's article, "Asean: Where Do We Stand—or Wobble?" reveals nothing new. But it provides context by stacking our problems alongside our Asean neighbors.

"After 20 years of Marcos, and two decades after People Power, we lag behind everybody in the original Asean, except possibly Indonesia," he writes. The newer members, known as "Plus Five," are catching up. "Unless we wake up ... we'll be singing in bars as the Asean Minus One!"

Our future hinges on human development, especially in education, health and appreciation for science, Virola stresses. Here are some indicators (some updated from the Human Development Report 2004).

Literacy here is 93 percent. But students from "Singapore, Brunei and Thailand read better." We had higher expenditures for education, compared to Indonesia, Lao PDR and Malaysia, but lower than Thailand and Singapore. And only 79 out of 100 of our children who enroll reach Grade 5, beating only Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar.

We're saddled with the fifth highest infant mortality rate: 29 out of 1,000 Filipino children born alive did not survive beyond a year of age. Maternal mortality rate is about five times those for Singapore, Brunei, Malaysia and Thailand.

Filipinos do not have as "much access to essential drugs as citizens in Singapore, Brunei and Malaysia. But they're better off than Cambodia and Myanmar."

Wedged in the middle among 10 Asean countries, "we are now about *kulelat* among the original five, although we're still generally ahead of the 'Plus Five': Myanmar, Brunei, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam."

Poor economic performance partly explains the lag. Food production per capita was fifth lowest, gross domestic product growth fourth lowest in 2002. We had the highest unemployment rate among seven countries at century's turn.

All countries except for Myanmar (no data) were in fiscal imbalance in 2002. But Brunei, Singapore and Thailand got out of the red in 2003.

Here, "out of every P100 we generated through exports, P17 went to payment of our debt." That's significantly higher than everybody except Thailand.

The number of personal computers here was fifth highest: 3 per 100 population. But that's way below 62 for Singapore, 15 for Malaysia and 8 for Brunei.

Ranked sixth most attractive tourist destination, the Philippines attracts less than two million tourists. Compare that with Malaysia's 10.6 million or Thailand's 10.1 million or even Vietnam's 2.4 million.

"We're in bad shape," Virola reminds all. "And we'll be worse off, hit by the ravages of global competition, statistics on our preparedness for fierce competition tell us."

A coup d'etat would only embed these problems—and the four-point formula for economic jackpots for a few corrupt officers, we add.

The future is collective responsibility for citizen and soldier. "There is hope," Virola insists. The alternative is to wobble into Asean's basket case.

* * *

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Horror story

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I WONDER why we don't have too many *aswang* sightings these days. There was one a couple of years ago, somewhere up north, I think. I saw it in one of the news programs, an oddity or comic relief item, though it probably didn't seem odd or comic to the people who were afflicted by the *aswang*, or thought they were. The story was amplified in "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" not long afterward.

As the story went, some villagers were alerted to the presence of the unholy creature by an unholy smell spreading into the village. And by the fact that the newly born babies in the place, of which there were plentiful, were in a constant state of agitation at night. They were certain the stench did not originate from a fetid river nearby and the babies' cries from mother's milk gone dry. Unfortunately, the villagers never captured or killed the *aswang*. They caught sight of it on several occasions and with the aid of torches and flashlights gave chase, but it was too fast for them and disappeared in a flash in the moonless haze above the thatched roofs.

Anthropologists, of course, have an explanation for it. *Aswangs* have a way of materializing in times of want. It's people's way of coping. They project their fears to the outside world, in the form of unholy creatures, which despite their fearful countenance (the local comic books had a way of drawing them that scared the wits out me as a kid) were capable of being destroyed. Not so poverty.

Maybe so. But anthropologists themselves, particularly in the God-forsaken places of this country, of which there are plentiful too, have been known to glance behind them on a dark and lonely road in the witching hour.

Well, in lieu of *aswang* sightings, we do have a plethora of horror movies invading cable TV and, even scarier, feel Halloween invading the hotels and restaurants. I don't know though that the movies, local or foreign, still manage to give people the kind of fright appropriate to All Saints' Day, or more aptly All Souls' Day.

When I was a kid, the two popular movie genres were Westerns and horror movies. The Westerns thrilled and the horror movies chilled. Indeed, it wasn't just horror movies that were popular then, horror comics and horror radio programs were so, too. By far, the scariest were the horror radio programs, the "Gabi ng Lagim" types that featured some pretty awesome voice talents. What made the radio horror stories more terrifying than the movies was that it relied on the power of suggestion. What is scarier than what you see is what you don't see. Doors creaking, wings flapping, wild noises in the night—all these, or the simulation of them, terrified more than the sight of nocturnal denizens creeping up on the hero and heroine in the movies.

Both the Westerns and the horror movies eventually died for various reasons. The Western died in a blazing gunfight with realism in the 1960s, realism ending up the faster draw. The Western was based on a heroic code not unlike that of the Japanese samurai movies, proof of which being that one of the most successful Western of all, which spawned no end of sequels, was "The Magnificent Seven," which came off Akira Kurosawa's "The Seven Samurai." To this day, Japan, which still clings in great part to tradition, continues to make samurai movies, though increasingly in animé form. Hollywood no longer does Westerns, or makes a whole industry of them. The inspiration is gone.

Horror movies, too, have suffered a tremendous decline, from the glory and gory Hammer days of the 1960s to the gory but not so glory days of zombie movies. I don't know what the reasons for it are. I suspect realism, too, had a great deal to do with it. You've got to be a little innocent or believe in something to suspend disbelief in a horror movie. You can't be scared as hell by hellish creatures or supernatural forces if you've become cynical or angry. The 1960s generation may not have been completely cynical, but it was angry. It was angry at many things, not least the Vietnam War, which became the other word for atrocity. You can't have a horror movie more horrifying than the one titled "My Lai." That massacre gave a face to horror to a whole generation.

We've been holdouts in the horror department, our movies continuing to mine the unearthly or ungodly long after Hollywood ceased to do so. But I don't know that they continue to gather big audiences, or still cause them to be deliciously frightened the way they did us long ago. The genre, of course, has gotten a new lease in life with the Asian horror genre spawned by "The Ring." I understand "Feng Shui," which has been quite successful, dips into that pool.

Why do horror movies continue to exert a fascination on us? Maybe the anthropologists have a point when they say our belief in the magical and fantastic, the supernaturally sublime and horrifying, heroes and *aswangs*, is our way of projecting our fears into the world and resolving them through bravery and incantation. Maybe it's true, *aswang* sightings and horror movies flourish in periods of horrendous want and dire economic dislocation, enabling or persuading us to believe that however fearful our enemies are, we will vanquish them in the end. With hunger becoming more prevalent and a financial collapse waiting in the wings, maybe we'll dwell more and more on these as forms of escape in months to come. I recall that Imelda became more and more supernaturally inclined, or blamed the country's woes on unearthly causes, during the twilight of her and her husband's rule.

But that may be the most horrifying thing of all, our inability or unwillingness to see the real horrors creeping upon us in this cobwebbed land. We may yet see the greatest horror movie of all. In life.

Nantes bill to push vital coco research

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A FEW columns back, I wrote about the "perverse" satisfaction citizens would derive from the long delay in the passage of the 2005 national budget, and even the distinct possibility of its ending up "reenacted." Meaning, that the 2003 budget, which was "reenacted" for 2004, might have to be used again in 2005. I told Senate President Franklin Drilon that citizens have clamored for a reduction of the pork barrel to help reduce the budget deficit, and with the possibility of a reenacted budget for 2005, they are quite anxious that the much-ballyhooed 40-percent reduction might not happen at all.

Drilon said there's little reason for that fear as only one-fourth of pork funds for 2004 has been released as of the third quarter of the year, and chances are, only one-half would be out by year's end. Moreover, should the 2005 budget be finally passed in February, releases of part of the pork would probably take place only in May or June next year, as has happened often.

* * *

I discussed the pork barrel delays with a veteran observer in the House and he confirmed that there was a drought for funds in that chamber. "It's worse than El Niño," he said. He stressed, however, that while the people in Manila may applaud the non-release of the much-derided pork as a triumph of public opinion, out in the provinces, especially the very poor ones, constituents suffer tremendously from the pork cuts. "An extra kilometer of road or a schoolhouse means jobs back in the provinces," he pointed out.

* * *

Some weeks ago, at the dinner hosted by Timor L'Este honorary consul in Manila Lito Jimenez for visiting Timorese Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta, I sat next to neophyte Quezon Rep. Lorenzo "Erin" Tañada, grandson of the late Sen. Lorenzo Tañada and son of former Sen. Wigberto Tañada. Erin said he was very much against the abolition of the pork barrel. Being a Tañada, he was doubtless aware that his position on the pork would raise eyebrows, but he explained that his district is very poor and needs a lot of infrastructure. Moreover, it is often hit by typhoon, hence much of his CDF will be spent meeting the emergency needs of his constituents such as medicines and relief goods during such emergencies "when it's good to have some funds to allocate." The people in affluent Makati, he said, may have less need for pork barrel, but in Quezon this makes a lot of difference. He said everything really depends on how the legislator uses his pork. There are those who use them wisely and those who don't.

* * *

The veteran House observer pointed out that the delay in the pork release creates another complication as it places House members at the mercy of the contractors for their public works projects. For these lawmakers these projects have to continue, pork or no pork, since they help ensure their political survival. With the delays in the releases, the contractors often end up financing the projects first, often by taking out loans themselves and the lawmakers pay them once the funds are released. This arrangement is conducive to cutting deals between them or results in substandard projects.

* * *

As I wrote earlier, virgin coconut oil has taken center stage here and abroad, thanks partly to the books written on its fantastic possibilities by Dr. Bruce Fife. Here Dr. Conrado Dayrit, professor emeritus of pharmacology at the University of the Philippines (and father of Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit) has pioneered in research on this once lowly product of nature. In a foreword to Dr. Fife's new book the elder Day wrote, "Its most remarkable property is that while it's food, it's also an antibiotic, an immuno-enhancer and a drug that regulates the body's function and defense mechanisms against many chronic diseases of man. It restores the normal balance of tissues or cells that have become dysfunctional." What a gift from Nature, he added. "The body has an arsenal that can make the US defense forces green with envy."

* * *

The good news is that House Resolution No. 310 was recently introduced by Quezon Rep. Rafael Nantes, urging the government to go full-blast in support of further research on coconut oil. The resolution urges Cocofinance and the UCPB-CIIF Foundations, "both social arms of the UCPB, the bank organized for the 'benefit of the coconut farmers,' to help fund that research especially on the monolaurin, the element in coconut oil that is believed to be the antidote to AIDS." The resolution noted that Dayrit's pioneering work on the curative qualities of virgin coconut oil clearly needs "more concrete conclusions to satisfy the world scientific community." It noted that the coconut levy funds collected from the farmers three decades ago would have grown to at least P819 million as of April 30, 2004. Nantes said these Cocofinance funds should now be harnessed to finance the necessary research on monolaurin, in order to help the impoverished coconut farmers as well as the campaign against AIDS.

* * *

Former Quezon Rep. and former Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Oscar Santos wrote to say that "the government would be highly remiss if it fails to support and fund the additional research and study on coconut oil and monolaurin." While "big sums of money go to waste," he said, fund support for Dayrit's pioneering work "could very well be a boon to mankind."

I agree. Think of all the AIDS victims awaiting a breakthrough in the treatment of this deadly disease. Think of the three million coconut farmers and their families—about 15 million Filipinos—depending on the coconut industry for their subsistence. Lawmakers, especially from the coconut-growing provinces, and the administration should support the Nantes resolution.

'No al bloqueo'

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

THINK of yourself as a citizen of a small island nation of 11 million floating near the armpit of the United States, a powerful nation where milk and honey flow profusely so many of its citizens are groaning under the weight of obesity and too much eating.

Think of yourself as a Cuban, deprived of many necessities and opportunities simply because your neighbor, a giant nation many times your size, has leaders who are fixated on the belief that your dot of a country is a "threat" to their security.

The big one squeezes the small one to make it go down on its knees and cry "Uncle!" But no way, Jorge. *Porque no?* Because no self-respecting nation, no matter how small, will capitulate to an immoral sanction. Because no sovereign nation that knows the meaning of pride would want to take tutorials on how to run its affairs.

Today, Oct. 28, a draft resolution calling for an ending to the US economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba will again be deliberated and voted on at the UN.

For the past 13 consecutive years, Cuba has been submitting resolutions to the United Nations General Assembly, demanding the lifting of the US embargo against it. This embargo/blockade, this continuous crucifixion of the Cuban people is now on its 45th year. Nothing as sustained as this has been imposed by a powerful country against a poor, little one.

As Cuban ambassador to the Philippines Ramon Medina said, the US sanctions against Cuba are the harshest in the world, much harsher than the sanctions against Iraq. Even the Pope has pleaded against this cruelty.

Last year, 179 countries, including the Philippines (which shares a Spanish and American colonial past with Cuba), voted in favor of ending the embargo. Two countries abstained. Only three (the US, Israel and the Marshall Islands) voted to continue the cruel embargo.

The US loses its case with Cuba every time the embargo issue is voted on in the UN, so what's the problem? The US is the problem. Because it rules the world.

What does this embargo/blockade mean?

Cuba cannot export to the US; it cannot engage in sales with US entrepreneurs. Cuba is capable of exporting to the US about 15,000 tons of nickel every year, at least 1,000 tons of cobalt and more than two million tons of cement. But it can't.

Cuba cannot import from the US. Food may be allowed but only under special circumstances and only on cash basis. Cuba cannot access financial credits, not even private ones.

US companies, on the other hand, have to go through a difficult bureaucratic process in the US if they are to sell to Cuba. Cuba cannot use its own maritime vessels in trading operations. Only US or third-party vessels can be used. Cuba is not allowed direct banking relations with the US, so it has to go through third-country banks.

US citizens and corporations could be fined or suffer imprisonment for setting foot on Cuba. Oh, but there are many US tourists and Hemingway wannabes in Cuba. Easy. They go through Mexico. In Cuba their passports are not stamped.

In the last 45 years, Cuba has not had any access to international financial agencies. No single credit. But in 2003, the Inter-American Development Bank is said to have pumped nearly $9 billion in credits into Latin America while the World Bank forked out $5 billion. *Nada* for Cuba.

The Torricelli Act of 1992 prohibits Cuba from trading with US companies present in third countries. And third-country vessels that call at Cuban ports must wait six months before docking in US ports.

The Helms-Burton Act allows for legal sanctions in the US against third-country businesses that deal with Cuba. Company officials found to have dealings with Cuba are prevented from entering the US. Wanna steal a Cuban brand name like Havana Club? In fact, someone has beaten you to it, thanks to the Helms-Burton Act.

The list is endless.

The geopolitical configurations in the world have changed, so what's so threatening about Cuba?

The Bush administration has supposedly set aside big sums for radio broadcasts to Cuba and to finance opposition to the Castro regime. The objective: to overthrow the present dispensation and establish US control over Cuba. Remember Nicaragua?

But despite what Cuba has had to go through, it has made great strides in the field of medicine, medical technology and microbiology which could be the envy of more developed countries. The Cuban ambassador said Cuba had to look for a niche where it could excel and so the world will be better because of Cuba's potent vaccines.

But the blockade is gravely affecting all this. Cuba cannot obtain diagnostic equipment and reagents from US companies. Cuba has to turn to Europe and this means added cost.

A recent case was that of Oxoid, a British firm supplying lab reagents and culture mediums. When Oxoid was partly taken over by a US company, Cuba's requests were turned down.

About $79 billion—this is Cuba's estimate of the economic damage caused by the US blockade. *No al bloqueo!* This is the cry of Cuba and the community of nations.

I read Resolution 58/7 which Cuba will present to the UN, and I learned about Cuba's crucifixion and bled. It ends:

"Cuba will not cease from defending her independence and she knows that her resistance contributes to the struggle waged by many peoples in this world for a more dignified life, and for the right to develop in fairer and more sustainable conditions. Neither will she ever give up the hope of one day having smooth, respectful relations with the American people."

Learn more about Cuba and the Philippines' shared past. Contact the Philippines-Cuba Cultural and Friendship Association at 9950849 to 50.

* * *

Send comments to cerespd@info.com.ph

Sweat of a woman

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

MY father once told me a story about one of his contemporaries, the son of a famous Filipino journalist-diplomat. This fellow ended up spending some time in France, and fell in love with a French girl. They dated. But the relationship didn't prosper. The man had to end the budding romance because, he explained to her with a great deal of embarrassment, he couldn't get used to her body odor. The girl was shocked. "Why I thought you'd find it attractive," she cried. "Men find this kind of body odor attractive!" But the man wouldn't budge. No go, he said; we Filipinos like our women scentless. And so, they parted.

This story always comes to mind when I read the section on Smell in Diane Ackerman's marvelous book, "A Natural History of the Senses." "In a famous letter," Ackerman writes, "Napoleon told Josephine 'not to bathe' during the two weeks that would pass before they met, so that he could enjoy all her natural aromas."

Lest you start thinking that among his other oddities Napoleon was a perennial body-odor lover, he had more cultivated tastes, too. Ackerman adds: "But Napoleon and Josephine also adored violets. She often wore a violet-scented perfume, which was her trademark. When she died in 1814, Napoleon planted violets at her grave. Just before his exile on St. Helena, he made a pilgrimage to it, picked some of the violets, and entombed them in a locket, which he wore around his neck; they stayed there until the end of his life." Ackerman further tells us that the British Navy gallantly allowed ships bearing violets for the Empress to pass through their blockade unhindered.

But what the Emperor of the French exhibited—an unabashed pleasure in the scent of his woman—we all exhibit, too. While our brains are infinitely more complex than those of all other creatures, scents can reduce us to acting like the male moths who go berserk the moment a lady moth squirts an infinitesimal amount of pheromones in the air. Complex creatures that we are, our pheromones can be the real thing, or manufactured substances, or a combination of the two.

Ackerman is frank about the power of smells. "Research done by Robert Henkin, from the Center for Sensory Disorders at Georgetown University, suggests that about a quarter of the people with smell disorders find that their sex drive disappears. What part does smell play in lovemaking? For women, especially, a large part... Females score higher than males in sensitivity to odors, regardless of age group. For a time scientists thought that estrogen might be involved, since there was anecdotal evidence that pregnant women had a keener sense of smell, but as it turned out prepubescent girls were better sniffers than boys their age, and pregnant women were no more adept at smelling than other women..."

The greater adeptness of women at detecting odors may account for why men are often so clumsy when it comes to handling their personal odors, such as the furtive, deep inhalation of one's armpits that characterize the adolescent males' dating behavior. (One unlucky fellow was caught in this act by his date, whereupon he tried to rescue himself by pointing his finger at her and going, "Bang, bang!")

The fact is, women probably live in a far richer world, smell-wise, and display a greater sensitivity to the power of odors. Ackerman says that the scientist George Preti "staged an experiment in which ten women had the sweat of other women applied under their noses at regular intervals. It took three months for the women to begin menstruating at the same time as the women whose sweat they were smelling. A control group, daubed with alcohol instead of sweat, didn't change their cycles at all. Clearly, a pheromone in sweat affects menstrual synchrony, which is why women in dorms or close girlfriends so often menstruate at the same time, a phenomenon known as the McClintock Effect (after Martha McClintock, the psychologist who first observed it). There appear to be other effects. When a man gets involved with a woman for any length of time, his facial hair starts to grow faster than it did before. Women who are cloistered away from men (say, in a boarding school) enter puberty later than women who are around men. Mothers recognize the odor of their newborn children... This is not true for fathers, who do not recognize the smell of their infants, but men can determine whether a T-shirt has been worn by a male or a female."

There are, however, theories Ackerman clearly finds moronic: "In fact, Sandor Ferenczi, a disciple of Freud's, went so far as to declare, in 'Thalassa: A Theory of Genitality,' that men only make love to women because women's wombs smell of herring brine, and men are trying to get back into the primordial ocean—surely one of the more remarkable theories on the subject." Ackerman dryly notes: "He didn't offer an explanation for why women have intercourse with men. One researcher claims that this 'fishiness' is due not to anything intrinsic to the vagina, but rather to poor hygiene after intercourse, or vaginitis, or stale sperm." So there.

But here's a juicy tidbit to end things: "For those of exquisite sensuality, there is nothing headier than the musky smell of a loved one moist with sweat. But natural body odors don't strike most of us as particularly enticing. In the Elizabethan Age, lovers exchanged 'love apples'—a woman would keep a peeled apple in her armpit until it was saturated with her sweat, and then give it to her sweetheart to inhale."

Surely a repulsive present if there ever was one.

* * *

Two awful errors in my previous column: The Austrian Hapsburgs were the junior, not senior, branch of the dynasty and the Princes of Hanover style themselves the Dukes, and not Princes, of Cumberland. Thanks to sharp-eyed readers who corrected me.

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph

Life and when it stops

The true profession of man is to find a way to himself.
—Herman Hesse

YOUNG BLOOD

Marife Carandang

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY age, if rounded off, is 30. Though I cringe over that fact, I have also welcomed the idea that while life could have been more perfect than this, being twenty-something is a glorious time to enjoy life and all its imperfections.

Nov. 13, 2001. Just when everyone was exploring the dating game, I was shamefully hanging on to the ideal of one great love. At 25, I was foolish enough to believe that the first man who walked up my doorstep was the one. I became so attached to and later heartbroken with the first guy to have ever invited me to go to Boracay (yes, I was that benighted). I was so smitten with the idea of one great love that I almost forgot in matters of the heart not everything works out in the end.

When I look back to the biggest drama of my 20s, I miss those times when I could just blame my youth for any needless suffering.

Jan. 1, 2002. Bill Cosby once said that in life, surprises sneak up on us and grapple us. I initially thought surprises would come in such nice forms as bonuses in one's pay envelope, but soon found out about universal conspiracies that make things happen for us.

I agreed to be set up for a blind date by a friend and I found out later how a single decision can truly change us. On the spur of the moment, I agreed to go with the guy to Baguio and quickly discovered that love happens after all and, when it does, you would be stupid not to surrender to its beauty.

And so it came to be that at 25, I got myself a boyfriend and found a very good reason to believe life was worth living. The pine trees and Burnham Park were witness to the so-called surprises of life that, oh well, sneak up on us.

Feb. 10, 2002. Sometimes, however, I wish life happens only when I am having a really great time living it. That getting old happens just when one's writing makes one qualify for a Hawthornden scholarship or when one can finally afford Spanish clothes or one is as pretty as Caroline Bessette. The irony is that when you're in your 20s, it's difficult not to think of the times when happiness used to mean a Nick Hornby book and a coffee latte.

In the meantime, I settled down with my antiquated laptop, occasionally suffering writer's block, and reconciled myself to the reality that my bra size would never be like Lara Croft's. I learned to suck the marrow out of life—and even the bone altogether. I found out the many ways people can hurt others. I found out street-smart ways of dealing with life. I discovered Hollywood endings. I learned to build time-tested mechanisms that will help me get by when I reach 60, like cultivating a few intimate friends/shrinks, having clueless days when Paul Rudd is the screen version of a hottie, and enjoying everything real or imagined that makes me look forward to the next day.

Next thing I knew, I was a year older, and hoping that while I was still busy figuring out the rest of my life, someone could cue the sunset for me.

June 5, 2002. Since my boyfriend had to quit his teaching job at the University of the Philippines, I also quit teaching. Considering the many opportunities I had after that, what I thought was a dumb thing to do turned out to be one of my smartest choices. As I waited for my next job, it would have been easy to wish I were dead. But I didn't. At the other end of that ordeal, I found out for myself something I had lost in me for a while. No, not those calories from eating too much potato chips or my mint green sleeping socks. Rather, it was something innate and unexplainable but which gave me a great sense of self. I was glad I left my job before I became too soft for everything or too tough for some things. For that was indeed a risk I took, with so many things left wanting. It was a chance I was ready to take a risk with, like riding the Anchor's Away in Enchanted Kingdom or the Kiss My Face moisturizer or getting braces. Frustrations do have a way of making it easy to self-destruct (like painting my toenails or popping two Vitamin Cs—sorry but this is as far as I can get).

Nick Hornby said you need a lot of ballast to keep you floating in life. I was glad that despite the scary thought of being jobless for a while and that while I did not have the face of Miss Russia, at least I had some spunk. It wasn't dying, but it made me more involved with life—its stress and laughter, challenges and tears.

April 13, 2003. The people I knew to have had great relationships for years had broken up, my friend included. As much as I was inclined to push the panic button, I started pondering instead the question: If love goes away, where does it go? My friend went as far as to work on her visa so she could get out of the country immediately. To run away from her heartaches, I guess.

I couldn't blame her. When something of great importance fails or doesn't work, running away becomes an option. We survive loss or heartbreak or despair by consummating our desire for reciprocated affection through something else. We get mint conditioning or a foot spa or eat Mediterranean food just to get over a love found and then lost. So my friend is heartbroken, and if you ask me, there's no better time to live like it is one's last day. Seize the day. Love what you have.

June 27, 2004. I turned another year older, with someone I loved, doing something I always wanted (I was back to teaching). While angst was too long ago, I found out that any twenty-something moment wouldn't be complete without dreams lost, surreal heartbreaks (whether the loss of a boyfriend or a pet fighting fish), unbelievable mistakes and different shapes of sadness. My best friend often said we were lucky because after all those times being in our 20s, we managed to grow old gracefully (and sometimes wisely) and came out in one piece.

We may not have the best things in life (which for my generation could be the latest Mac or plane tickets to some Greek island), but we still dream more, love more. I am 28 and I have recognized the truth in that line from an Ewan McGregor movie that says, when you find the love of your life (be it something to do or someone to be with) life just stops.

Marife Carandang, 28, teaches part-time at the University of the Philippines-Manila.

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Pride in the rank

THIS raging controversy about Maj. Gen. Carlos Garcia makes me recall another Garcia. It was a proud name in his day and age. He was Brig. Gen. Nicanor Garcia. There is a short street named after him in Makati (formerly Reposo), perpendicular to JP Rizal Street. He was, like "Garic," a graduate of the Philippine Military Academy.

I met him at a time when he was being vilified as "protecting smugglers," a victim of an early political fever campaign obviously intended to frustrate the reelection of President Diosdado Macapagal in 1965. Then nearing his retirement from the service as chief of the Philippine Constabulary, he told me that he was living on his pay and that he didn't deserve all the brickbats from politicians. He was in near tears.

When he died a few years later, he had no mansions and fat bank accounts. His family could not even give him a decent funeral. Only then did a lot of people realize how Garcia was severely wronged by politics and how right President Macapagal was for making him PC chief. If memory does not fail me, Garcia was responsible for the capture of Dr. Jesus Lava, who destroyed the ideological backbone of the Hukbalahap. Makati paid him a tribute. His ilk should be remembered and emulated, especially by young officers who can bring back dignity and prestige to the honored name of their organization, be it the Army, Navy, Air Force or police.

There is a lesson to be learned here. People in uniform should stay out of politics. A politicized military and police, usually sanctimonious, will do no good to their organizations. Military adventurism destroys the country, as we have seen.

Politicians should keep their hands and their mouths off the uniformed branches of our government. For the most part, media mileage and personal agenda are reasons for their meddling. Let each one take care of his own concerns. Too, it's time people in government give more time to service than for themselves. We have to get rid of the "pockets first" syndrome. Then there will be peace and progress. Prosperity will be just around the corner.

I met Col. Nicanor Jimenez in June 1985 in Seoul where he served as ambassador. He said that he preferred "colonel," much like Secretary Carlos Romulo who preferred to be addressed "general." A sense of pride in the rank. He recalled his times in the military—and my two brothers whom he met when they were young officers in the budding Philippine Army. "Them," he said in nostalgia, "were really the good old days." And they were indeed. Then, unlike now, it was "country first." Good slogan, isn't it?

—DIOSDADO P. PERALTA,
44 K-8th St.,
West Kamias, Quezon City

Fictitious letter-writer?

I WRITE in connection with the letter of a certain Vivian Monterey of 8061 Estrella Avenue, San Antonio Village, Makati City, which you have titled "Suplico's reflection." (PDI, 10/14/04)

Monterey has maliciously resurrected an old worn-out issue which has been dismissed twice in two separate venues. I am certain that if I did not sign Resolution No. 276, calling for a GSIS congressional inquiry, such would not have been trotted out again, for the third time in a row over a period of four years.

I wanted to personally explain this to Monterey. Thus, I went to see her at her printed address on Oct. 15. I was kindly helped by the guards of San Antonio Village. There are two addresses marked No. 8061 along Estrella Avenue. The first is a three-door apartment. Door A is rented by someone from the Visayas while both doors B and C are rented by one corporation. There is no Vivian Monterey residing in either doors A, B or C. A little farther down the road is another address marked No. 8061. It is the address of New Jersey Shipping Industries Inc. Again, no Vivian Monterey can be found thereat.

I noticed your announcement that no letter will be printed in the INQUIRER unless accompanied with a complete address, telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. I feel that you have to be more circumspect in this regard, as Vivian Monterey of 8061 Estrella Avenue, Makati City is apparently a fictitious person.

—REP. ROLEX T. SUPLICO,
Fifth District, Iloilo

Church site not a gov't donation

THE OCT. 13 editorial of the INQUIRER stated, "In Mandaluyong City, public land in the City Hall complex was donated so that the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy, a Catholic church, could be built."

There are two errors in this statement:

1. The whole Maysilo Circle, where the City Hall complex and the Catholic church are located, was donated by the Ortigas Company, not by the Mandaluyong city hall. Part of the deed of donation is a lot for the Catholic church. This fact can be verified by the deed of donation. Upon verification, then, it cannot be said that there is "a clear contravention of the principle of the separation of Church and State."

2. The National Shrine of The Divine Mercy is located at Marilao, Bulacan. The Catholic church at Maysilo Circle is the Archdiocesan Shrine of The Divine Mercy. This fact can be verified from the Catholic Directory of the Philippines or by visiting the National Shrine in Marilao or the Archdiocesan Shrine in Mandaluyong City.

—MSGR. FRANCISCO M. DE LEON,
rector, Archdiocesan Shrine
of The Divine Mercy,
Maysilo Circle, Boni Avenue,
Mandaluyong City

LETTERS
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Makati's rules on parking

THE MAKATI City ordinance prohibiting parking of motor vehicles in certain areas—such as Legaspi Village and Salcedo Village—before 10 a.m. and after 5 p.m, has caused people, especially those who have to transact business early and leave office late, a lot of headaches. Office hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If they arrive with their cars before 10 a.m., they cannot park. If they leave the offices after 5 p.m., their cars will be towed. Parking is allowed only between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

I was witness to an incident one late evening at Gamboa Street in Legaspi Village where a woman's car was being towed. I asked the crew why they were towing the car when there was practically no vehicles passing by and there was no obstruction at all on that wide street. The guy simply pointed to the sign that says "vehicles are to be towed away between 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. the next day."

The woman was visibly scared because her car was to be towed to a scary impounding area. At that late hour, she would not be able to claim her car, and she would have difficulty in locating a taxi cab to go home. She must have also feared that she might be molested by the all-male crew.

The ordinance should be amended to give people a more reasonable time frame within which they can park their cars. Also, the parking fees should be reduced to make it competitive with parking at the malls. The present street parking fee is P30 for the first two hours and P40 for the next hour or a total of P70 for a three-hour parking, which is more expensive than parking inside shopping malls. That's the reason why there are many empty street-parking spaces which means lost income for the city government.

—L. ENCHONG SEE,
enchongsee@yahoo.com

DSWD in close touch with children

THIS is to clarify an item in Solita Monsod's Oct. 9 column, "A successful sting going bust," about the July 3 rescue of minors from a child pornography syndicate.

First of all, we wish to clarfiy that there were only 58—not 70—minors and nine adults involved. Thelsa Biolena, officer in charge of Field Office IV-A, Department of Social Welfare and Development, was part of the rescue team. After the rescue, interviews and counseling services were immediately undertaken to gather information on how the children were lured into this situation, as well as to know about their families and immediate relatives.

It was found out that 32 minors and five adults were from the National Capital Region while the rest were from Cavite.

Not a single minor was discharged to his or her family within four hours, as claimed by Monsod's source. In the NCR, seven minors and two adults were transferred to various DSWD-licensed non-government organizations, six were left under our care and the rest were returned to their families after proper assessment. Proper assessment involves looking into the circumstances surrounding the case—the child, his/her family and the community. The discharge of minors was based on our social workers' professional judgment and proper assessment and it was not done in haste.

In Region 4, before minors are discharged, our social workers conduct home visits and coordinate with the local government units where they are going to reside. The concerned LGUs and NGOs are also mobilized to assist in monitoring the minors' school and community circle and to provide after-care services.

We believe that the best place for a child is with his or her family and in the comfort of his or her home, except when it is proven that the family is placing its child-member at risk. In such eventuality, the National Bureau of Investigation has decided not to use some minors as witnesses since it cannot be ascertained whether or not they were directly involved in the video pornography syndicate.

We assure Monsod that we are continuously monitoring the status of the children.

—ALICIA R. BALA,
assistant secretary
for Luzon Cluster,
Department of Social Welfare
and Development,
Batasan Pambansa Complex,
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

Was it just an election come-on?

I WAS intrigued by the reaction of Joel P. Palacios, vice president for media affairs of the Social Security System, to the request of Facundo Tallo for an increase in the SSS retirement pension. (PDI, 9/23/04)

He said that the SSS cannot grant a pension increase at this time due to financial constraints. If that is so, so be it. All I ask is that we pensioners continue to receive our retirement benefits on time. (Or is the system running out of funds and sinking because, as SSS president and general manager Corazon de la Paz reasoned out, many pensioners have outlived their life expectancy and have drained the system's funds? How unchristian *naman*!)

Two months before the last national elections, I used to receive my monthly pension check a week before the due date, right at my residence. Or was it just an election come-on? I am now disillusioned. At this writing, I have not received my measly pension check for September. It is now October, in which case I should be receiving two checks already. Maybe, Palacios would like to look into this case and others of similar nature.

I need the money for my daily maintenance medicine for my hypertension. I have been taking them for the last 30 years.

—MANUEL N. OYSON JR.,
Oyson Apartments,
M. H. Aznar Road,
Barangay Sambag 2, Cebu City

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Group says 3 rivers contaminated

Cites EMB findings of high levels of chromium hexavalent

PRECARIOUS

VAL HANDUMON/PDI PHOTO

A boy sleeps on a sidewalk along Fuente Osmeña in Cebu City, unmindful of the danger of doing so. Passersby appear to ignore him.

By Allan Macatuno
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—Three major rivers inside the former American naval base in Subic are polluted with high levels of chromium hexavalent, a contaminant that has killed several people in the United States, a group, quoting a government report, said.

This was disclosed on Wednesday by the Alliance for Bases Clean-up (ABC) International during a forum with Japanese volunteers, who arrived here to promote peace, human rights, equal and sustainable development and respect for the environment.

Quoting a study conducted by the Environmental Management Board, Myrla Baldonado, president of ABC-International, said the Binictican, Boton and Malawaan rivers in the northern part of this city contained contaminants that could cause respiratory problem, infertility and lump.

"The contaminant is exactly the same as the culprit in the deaths and illnesses of people in the award winning and true-to-life movie Erin Brokovich," Baldonado said.

The film was about Erin Brokovich, a single mother of three working in a California law firm who uncovered cancer-causing chemicals dumped by the Pacific Gas & Electric into unlined ponds in Hinckley, California.

Baldonado said the incident could similarly happen in communities around the former US military installation here.

"These rivers, where people usually catch fish and take a bath, transverse the old dump inside the Subic Bay Freeport," she said.

Baldonado's group has joined the "Peace Boat," a Japanese-based non-government organization that conducts global peace voyages.

She briefed the Japanese volunteers on updates on the issue of contamination of former US facilities in Clark in Pampanga and Subic.

During the forum, Baldonado also cited another study of the Department of Health that showed that 47 out of 97 people who used to live in former US motor pools in the Clark Air Base Command (Cabcom) in Clark, had been found with high levels of arsenic and lead in their blood.

"This study confirms earlier findings by a DOH doctor that there are high levels of lead in the blood of pregnant women and children in the area," she said.

"The port call of Peace Boat in Subic is timely. The USS Stockholm will dock at the same site (on Thursday) and it is a great opportunity for the citizens to come together and protest the continued and unlimited access of the US to our ports," Baldonado said.

She said while it used to be only Subic and Clark, American troops are all over the country "polluting our environment while they continue to walk away from the responsibility to clean up heavily polluted bases."

The Japanese ship, which has become a floating peace village over the past years, docked at the Alava Pier in Subic Bay on Wednesday.

The Japanese will learn about the local communities and help victims of toxic wastes left in the former American military bases in the country press the US government for bases cleanup.

Around 1,500 members of various cause-oriented groups staged a "peace march" on Wednesday afternoon to call on the US government to claim responsibility for toxic waste contamination.

DENR says new coliform crisis looms in Boracay

By Volt Contreras

SEVEN years after reports of water contamination scared away tourists from the resort island of Boracay, majority of business establishments and households there still ignore measures critical to preventing another contamination in the future.

Behind Boracay's world-famous white sand beach and clear waters, environmental consciousness appears to be wanting particularly among those who profit from the island's charms.

Of the 440 businesses now hosted by the island, only 210 operate with an environmental compliance certificate from the government as of last month, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources reported yesterday.

Only 50.5 percent of hotels and restaurants and only 24.9 percent of the households have installed pipelines connecting to the centralized sewage treatment plant that began operations on the island in 2003, the DENR added.

The plant, run by the Philippine Tourism Authority, was constructed by the government to prevent a repeat of the 1997 coliform bacteria spread that drove tourist arrivals down by 60 percent that year.

On a positive note, the agency said Boracay's water quality—particularly its total and fecal coliform levels—remains within safety standards for recreation and fishing.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor issued a warning yesterday to non-complying businessmen, saying they face sanctions from the DENR within the year unless they start applying for an ECC or connect their structures to the sewage plant.

Still on the state of Boracay, Defensor also noted that majority of its inhabitants still have no titles to the lands they occupy, though this is largely due to the island's outdated classification as a "public forest land."

ROUNDUP

Prosecutor probed

CEBU CITY—The Supreme Court ordered the Integrated Bar of the Philippines to investigate acting Talisay City Prosecutor Mary Ann Castro for filing two petitions to annul her marriage in separate courts. It also ordered Regional Trial Court Judges Idelfonso Suerte and Jesus de la Peña to explain why no disciplinary action should be taken against them for acting on Castro's petition. The SC decision dated Oct. 12 said Castro first filed her petition to annul her marriage to Rocky Rommel Roa before De la Peña of the Mandaue RTC, which the judge granted on April 2001. But the Court of Appeals recalled the order on Oct. 23, 2003, due to "apparent fatal irregularities in the conduct of the trial of the case." But in a separate petition filed on Nov. 10, 2003 before Suerte, presiding judge of RTC Branch 60 in Barili, Castro stated she had not initiated any other similar proceeding in any court, which "cast doubt on her moral fitness as a member of the bar." The SC noted that Suerte "exhibited extraordinary fervor" in deciding to annul the marriage of Castro to her husband on Jan. 26 because it was decided "in a record time of 67 days from the time it was filed."

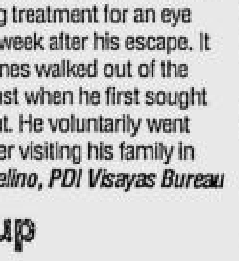
Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau

Capiz warden axed

ROXAS CITY—Capiz Gov. Vicente Bermejo has relieved Melanie Yu as jail warden of the Capiz Rehabilitation Center (CRC) on recommendation of the provincial board after the committees on peace and order and police matters found her liable for the escape of inmate Rizaldy Briones on Sept. 20. Bermejo named Wilfredo Develos as new warden. Develos was the CRC warden from 1995 until 1998 when he retired from government service. Briones, an ex-policeman facing theft charges, walked out of the provincial hospital where he was undergoing treatment for an eye ailment. He was recaptured a week after his escape. It was the second time that Briones walked out of the hospital. The first was in August when he first sought treatment for the same ailment. He voluntarily went back to jail three days later after visiting his family in Sigma.

Felipe Celino, PDI Visayas Bureau

Skeletons dug up



LUCENA CITY—The skeletal remains of two suspected victims of New People's Army rebels were discovered in the hinterland of Sitio Kalalanyo, Barangay Cagsiay III in Mauban, Quezon last Wednesday, according to a military report. Col. Alfonso Bernate, commander of the 201st Infantry Brigade, identified the remains as those of Ka Jay and Ka Ricky, who were allegedly tortured and killed by the NPA on suspicion of being spies. Communist spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, however, said "they were casualties during the NPA raid in a Coast Guard Detachment in Real, Quezon in August last year."

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

'Pork' appetite drives bid for another district

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Two of the three congressmen in Negros Oriental will push for the creation of another congressional district in the province.

Rep. Emilio Macias II (Neg. Or., 2nd district), House committee chair on local government, said Rep. Jacinto Paras (Neg. Or., 1st district) would file a bill before his committee for the creation of another district in Negros Oriental.

Macias said he would support the bill because the province "deserves another congressman."

"First of all, we are already qualified to have another district. Second, this will mean additional amount for the province because every congressman is entitled to the so-called pork barrel," Macias said.

The congressman said the current fiscal crisis should not be a reason to deny the province what it was entitled of, adding that the province should not just depend on the graces of Malacañang because it might not come.

Under the Constitution, a locality with a population of at least 250,000 is entitled to a congressional representation.

Macias said the province is entitled to four congressional districts because the population of Negros Oriental already reached more than one million in 2001.

If the plan pushes through, he added the present composition of the congressional districts in the province would have to be reorganized.

Macias said that under Paras' bill, the first district will be composed of Canlaon City, and the towns of Vallahermoso, Guihulngan, La Libertad, Jimalalud and Tayasan.

At present, these localities belong to the first district, along with the towns of Ayungon, Bindoy and Manjuyod.

But according to the bill, Ayungon, Bindoy and Manjuyod will be part of the new second district, along with Mabinay town and Bais City.

Mabinay and Bais are currently under the second district, along with the cities of Dumaguete and Tanjay, and the towns of Pamplona, Amlan, San Jose and Sibulan,

Under the bill, Dumaguete, Tanjay, Pamplona, Amlan, San Jose, Sibulan and Valencia town will comprise the new third district.

At present, Valencia along with Bacong, Dauin, Zamboanguita, Siaton, Sta. Catalina, Basay and Bayawan City belong to the third district.

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NDF says slay plot report 'outright lie'

MALAYBALAY CITY—The National Democratic Front (NDF) described as "outright lies" claims that the New People's Army (NPA) sent out a liquidation squad against at least four ranking military officials in Mindanao.

Last week, Pastor Alcover, leader of the pro-military Alliance for National Democracy (ANAD), said NPA rebels headed by Southern Mindanao-based Leonardo Pitao alias Commander Parago would carry out the supposed liquidation.

Alcover, a former rebel leader and organizer based in Central Visayas, said he got the information from an agent, who managed to penetrate the rebels.

He said the officials were marked for liquidation because of their active campaign against the insurgents.

Alcover said he was told that an NPA team had already been dispatched to carry out the plot against Task Force Davao commander Col. Eduardo del Rosario, 5th Civil Relations Group chief Lt. Col. Agane Adriatico, former Military Intelligence Group commander Lt. Col. Allen Capuyan, and former Intelligence Service Unit chief Major Jose Faustino.

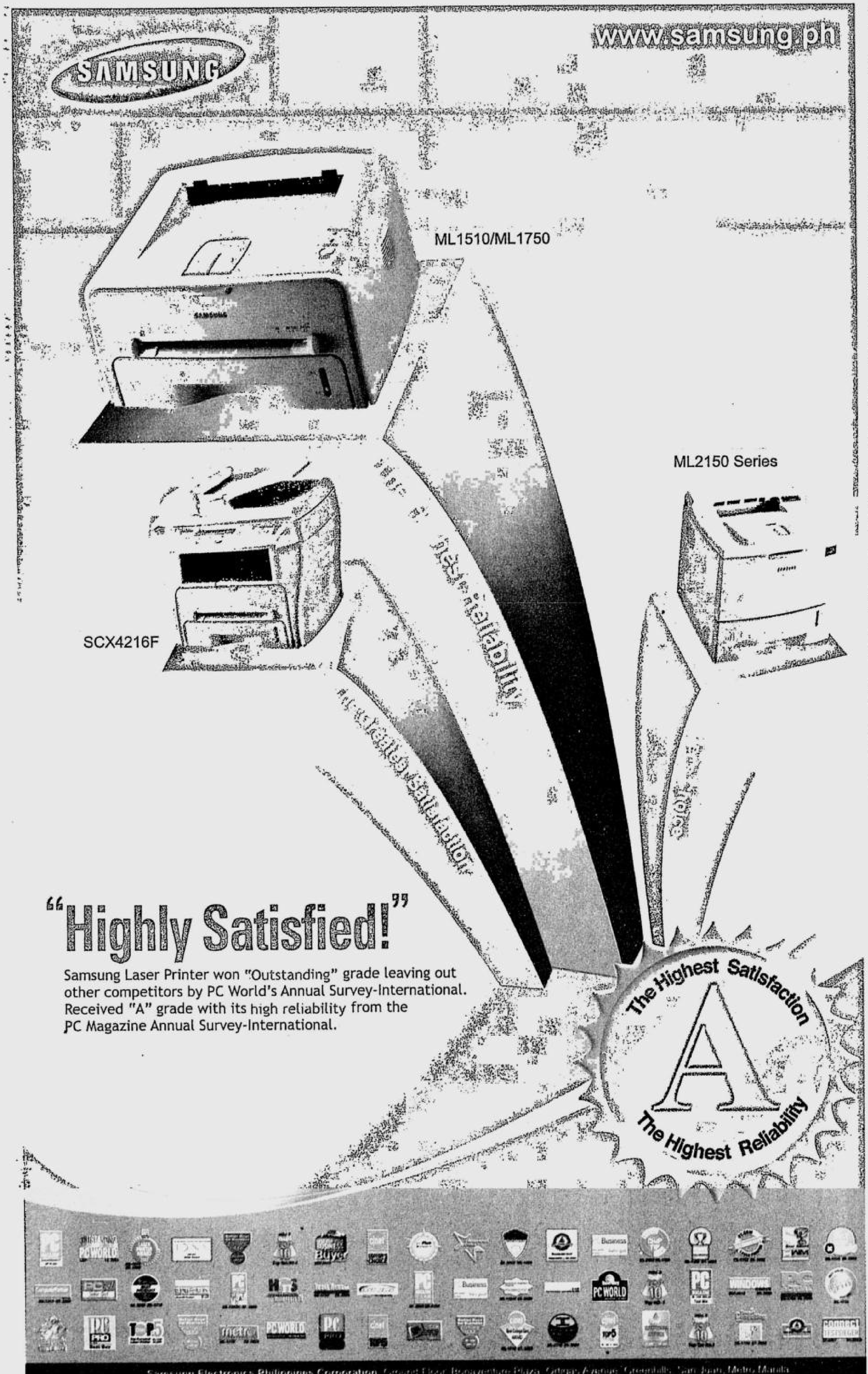
But Cesar Renerio, spokesperson of the NDF Northcentral Mindanao, told the INQUIRER that there was no need to dispatch a special team against any military official.

"Those are outright lies. As military officers they are legitimate targets in the battlefield without dispatching NPA operatives," he said.

Renerio said the claims were plain "military alibi" because the said officials wanted to be promoted or transferred to other units.

Grace Cantal-Albasin, PDI Mindanao Bureau

HOLIDAY JOE GALVEZ/CONTRIBUTOR
Tourists take a stroll on the board walk of a resort on Siargao Island in Surigao del Norte. While the island has not resorted to aggressive promotion to attract tourists, visitors flock to its beaches and resorts for their holiday.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Taxes sought on gas project

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial government of Palawan wants to tax the platform and other machineries being used for the exploration of the Camago-Malampaya Natural Gas-to-Power Project.

In a privilege speech during the session of the provincial council yesterday, Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon said the council fully supports the provincial assessor's move to assess the real properties of Shell Phils Exploration B.V. (Spex), the company leading the exploration of the Malampaya project.

But Spex has not answered yet the letter sent by the assessor's office, demanding that it declare its real properties used in Malampaya.

Instead, the company referred the assessor to the Department of Energy.

The INQUIRER tried to get comments from Spex public affairs director Facundo Roco but he was out of the country.

"We wrote them three times but they always referred us to the DOE," provincial assessor Salvacion Pacaldo said.

According to Pacaldo, they assessed the property in Malampaya on July 30 and sent the first letter to Spex on Aug. 4.

The assessed value of the real properties amounted to more than P1 billion.

The basic tax for real properties is one percent of the total assessed value. Another .5 percent of the one percent basic tax will be collected for special educational fund.

From this, Pacaldo said, the local government could collect around P47 million in taxes for one year.

The commercial quantity operation in Malampaya started in 2002 so the Spex is subject to back taxes from 2002, Pacaldo added.

She said it took them a while to assess the value of the real properties in Malampaya because they had to go to Batangas where the offshore refinery is located.

The real properties include the platform, machineries, pipelines and other underwater facilities.

However, in a meeting with the provincial council yesterday, De Leon, a lawyer and a former congressman, said there might be a technicality when it comes to collecting the taxes because a provision in the service contract for the gas project "favors Spex as the holder with tax exemption—virtually from all kinds of local taxes."

It was entered into by the Spex and the national government in 1990, earlier than the effectivity of the Local Government Code in 1992.

Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

6-month strike at bus firm ends

TARLAC CITY—Less than a week after the Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines (PRBL) resumed operations following the signing of a memorandum of agreement between management and its 900-strong striking employees' union, all but three of the bus firm's terminals in Central and Northern Luzon are in full swing.

The MOA signing on Oct. 21 between Nicholo Nisce, company president, and Alan Bagtong, president of the employees' union, ended the six-month-old strike by PRBL employees.

The day after the signing, striking employees lifted the picketline they set up in front of the company's Tarlac City terminal and buses started to ply their routes.

Began at the onset of Holy Week in April this year, the strike was staged due to alleged non-implementation of the provisions of a Dec. 18, 2002 MOA on wages and benefits between workers and management.

As a result of the strike, the operations of the country's oldest bus firm were paralyzed for six months. The PRBL has terminals in Angeles City, Tarlac, Alaminos City, Baguio City, La Union, Abra and Laoag City. Of these, only three—Laoag, Baguio and La Union terminals—have yet to operate full blast.

"They are still being cleaned up and the facilities there are being readied," Bagtong said.

Asked about the prospects of the latest MOA, Bagtong said he was "optimistic that the terms of the agreement would be honored this time."

According to the MOA, no charges will be filed against the striking employees. The workers will also be paid their wage differentials worth P16,124 each on a staggered basis.

Russell Arador, PDI Central Luzon Desk

INQUIRER Southern Luzon
E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.ph
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

Leaning school worries parents

By Romulo O. Ponte
Paete, Laguna

STUDENTS and teachers had barely warmed up to their new two-story building in Paete town in Laguna when something bizarre jolted officials six weeks after classes started: it was leaning to the east side.

Immediately, they were ordered to vacate the Paete National High School (PNHS) in Barangay 9, Ibaba del Norte, near the shores of the Laguna de Bay.

Now, classes for the 600 PNHS students are being conducted on the second floor of the town's public market.

Their parents are worried. How can they be sure that the school building will be safe for their children?

Construction of the P3.4-million building began in December 2003 and was completed this April, in time for the May 10 national elections, according to provincial engineer Gilberto R. Mondez. It was finished in 130 days, way, way ahead of the expected period of 180 days, he added.

Mondez admitted that the building was indeed leaning, but only by three inches. He said he was informed by the municipal engineer, Noel Viray, on Aug. 13 that the structure had moved due to the "possible settlement of [the] soil foundation."

Marilyn Navarro, mother of a second year student and treasurer of the Paete Parents Teachers Community Association, said the parents had requested the principal, Sonia Cadawas, to transfer the students to the vacant second floor of the market while the building was undergoing repair.

They did not recommend that the building be totally abandoned, Navarro said. "We are ready to allow our children to return to their newly constructed classrooms as soon as they are given assurance by the engineers that the building is already stable and safe for occupancy."

Mondez asked the parents not to worry because experts had been hired and remedial efforts were being made to stop the building's movement.

Minor external work was also going on and would take about a month to complete, he said.

Former dump

The building stands on a former garbage dump, residents and Cadawas said.

Edgar Ramos, project engineer of another building being put up nearby, said the site was indeed a garbage area but added that he saw to it that the foundations of his project were well placed.

Mondez said the school building was constructed by the provincial government through the provincial engineer's office (PEO).

He said the builder, RNA Contractor, proceeded with the project even without first subjecting the soil to a geological and technical investigation or soil boring test.

The contractor and the PEO relied only on the advice of the municipal engineer and local officials who failed to disclose that the site was once a garbage dump, Mondez said.

It was only after the problem was noticed that the PEO recommended the soil boring test to evaluate the soil conditions.

Mondez said that in his 27 years in the service, his office had constructed about 150 one-story and two-story school buildings in Laguna, all of them without a soil boring test. They recommend the test only when constructing high-rise buildings, he said.

But this was the first time that the defects surfaced shortly after the school building project was completed.

Gov. Teresita Lazaro blamed former municipal officials and the municipal engineer for the flawed structure. She said they failed to give complete information to the contractor and provincial engineer on the type of land on which the building donated by the provincial government was to be built.

No defects

Mondez said that when he inspected the building on Oct. 20, he found no defects or cracks in the beams, columns or main structure despite a recent earthquake.

"There is no danger that the building will collapse as implied by media reports; hence, there is no cause for alarm," the provincial engineer said.

He said he had no idea how much the rehabilitation work would cost.

"Surely it would be taken care of by the school building project contractor headed by its general manager, Filipina Estrada," Mondez said.

He said his office, the provincial government and the contractor would take full responsibility and do all remedial work needed to stabilize the building.

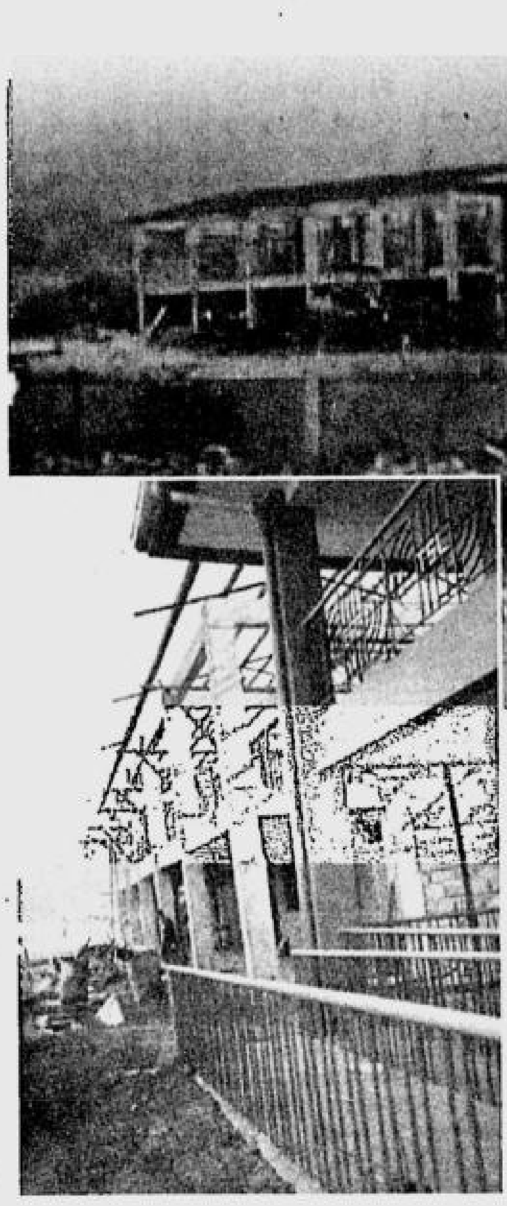
His office has tapped the services of construction specialists, particularly Ground Specialists Inc. (GSI), to help ensure the proper rehabilitation of the building.

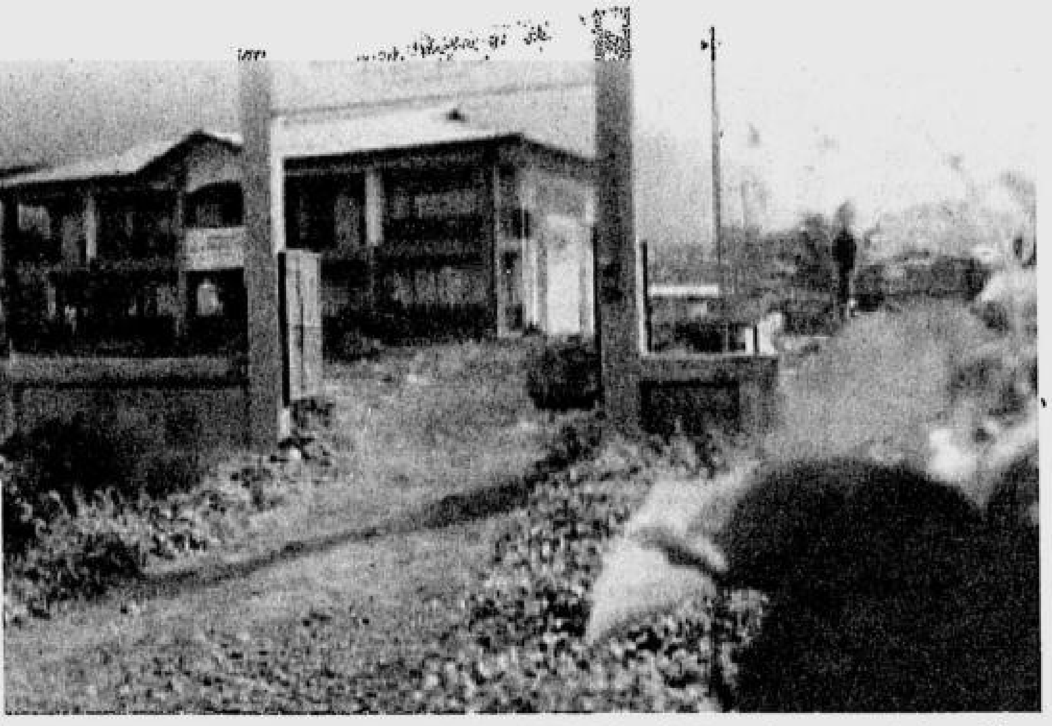
In an Oct. 19 letter to Mondez, Mamerto A. Sindayen, GSI president, recommended the use of bored piles to correct the inclination.

"This is done by first drilling a hole up to the hard strata and then grouting with concrete after the reinforcement is inserted. We recommend that the boring test be extended deeper up to the firm strata. This will allow us to determine the design length of the pile and the extent of the soft ground," Sindayen said.

He identified the problem of the building as differential settlement, meaning it slowly settles over a period of time as the underlying soil consolidates.

"The building need not be abandoned and can be used safely without any immediate threat to life and property in the near term," he said. But he added that "remedial measures should still be undertaken to arrest the settlement and prevent structural damage to the building in the long term."





THE LEANING building of the Paete National High School in Paete, Laguna at the foot of the Sierra Madre mountains

PHOTOS BY ROMULO O. PONTE

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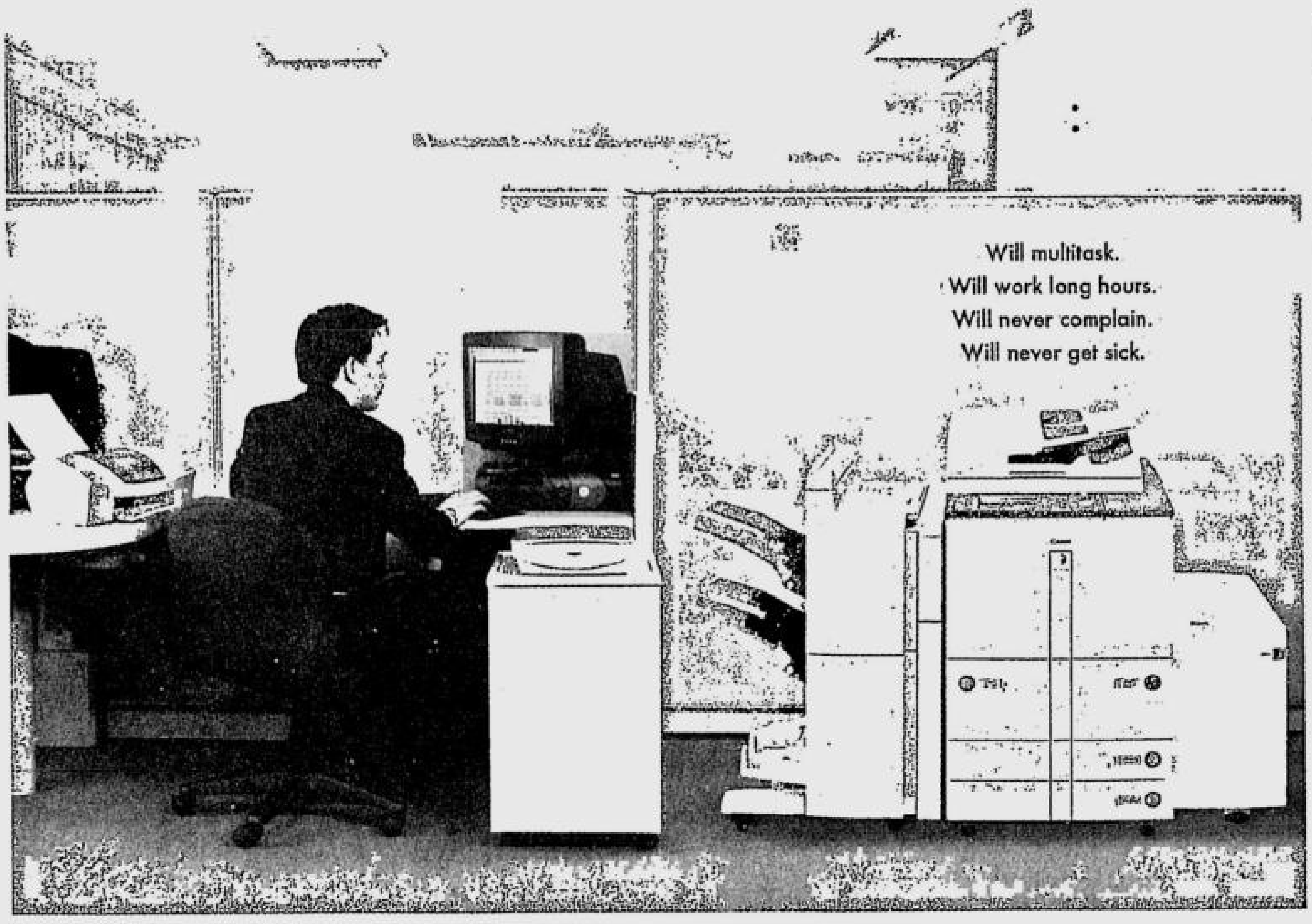
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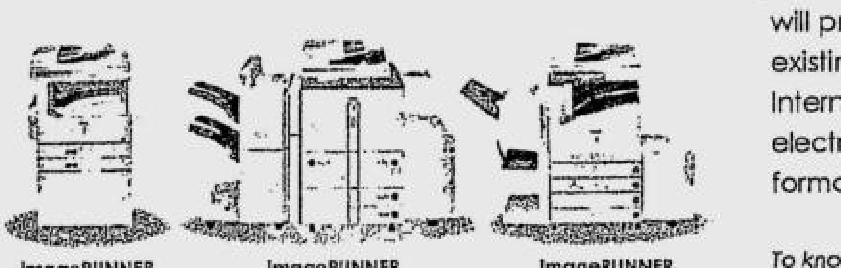

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JDV wants House to end Garcia probe

From page A1

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered, but in the middle of next month.

Worse, the Judge Advocate General's Office (Jago) yesterday said Garcia would be charged with only one violation of the Articles of War—for conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman (or Article 96)—instead of the three articles previously mentioned by the Armed Forces.

Even worse, Garcia may get off with only a slap on the wrist as the maximum penalty for violating Article 96 is separation from the service. Since the ex-comptroller of the AFP is due to retire on Nov. 18, when he reaches the mandatory retirement age of 56, he may end up losing only his retirement benefits.

Forfeiture petition

But the Office of the Ombudsman yesterday filed a petition for forfeiture against Garcia and his family for allegedly acquiring about P143,052,015.29 over and above his "optimum level" military income of P3,273,767.01 from 1993 to 2003, within which time his income started to rise dramatically.

In a 27-page "verified urgent ex parte application for the issuance of writ of preliminary attachment" filed in the Sandiganbayan shortly before 5 p.m., the Ombudsman said the assets, cash and other property of the Garcias should be forfeited in favor of the government.

Also charged were Garcia's wife, Clarita Depakakibo Garcia, and sons Ian Carl, Juan Paolo and Timothy Mark.

The petition was signed by Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo, Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio and acting Deputy Special Prosecutor Humphrey T. Monteroso.

Public opinion

De Venecia expressed the belief that the House inquiry had achieved its "strategic objectives." He said the two committees should be congratulated for doing a good job.

"And it seems that the overwhelming public opinion is that the wealth is unexplained, and that is not challenged," he said. "I think the time has come for us to phase out the ... hearings and move them to the Ombudsman and to the court-martial."

De Venecia said that he spoke with Golez and Lopez last week about his wish to end the hearings, and that the two promised to phase out the inquiry this week.

"While we must go for reforming the AFP, which is the thrust of the AFP, we should also try to be moderate and not indict the whole military establishment," he said.

Asked if Malacañang had asked him to end the inquiry, De Venecia said members of Congress did things on their own although there were times that they cooperated with Malacañang on certain proposed legislative measures.

He denied that he made the appeal in view of the reported coup plots.

"There are, I think, peripheral movements, but nothing substantial because public opinion seems to be on the side of investigating the rascality in the AFP. The lower echelon in the AFP would also like to see the ranks cleansed," he said.

ASSIGNMENT: Patikul, Sulu. Battle-ready Marines appear unfazed by the dangers that lurk in their new destination during send-off ceremonies at the Philippine Navy headquarters on Roxas Blvd. on Wednesday. ERIK ARAZAS

10 days to answer

At a press briefing, Lt. Col. Al Perreras, Jago executive officer and chief of its military justice division said Garcia would be furnished a copy of the charge sheet against him today.

Garcia has 10 days to file his answer to the charges, after which, Perreras said, "we will evaluate the evidence."

"If there is a prima facie case, we will refer the case for trial for court-martial," he said, adding that the actual trial could start by the middle of next month.

During yesterday's send-off for the 5th Marine Battalion Landing Team at the Navy headquarters, outgoing AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said the correct procedure must be followed in the court-martial.

No shortcuts

"We have to follow procedure here. We cannot rush this because it can still be questioned in the Supreme Court, that there was a miscarriage of justice because we made some shortcuts. And that would be a very sad story," Abaya said.

Twice already, the President has ordered the AFP to convene the court-martial of Garcia, who is accused of accumulating unexplained wealth here and abroad.

Abaya said he would not succumb to pressure to convene the court-martial at the soonest possible time, or at least before he retires tomorrow.

"I don't care about the pressure. We have to follow the rule of law and due process. I've been saying that all along. This is not a kangaroo court that we are constituting," he said.

Mandatory penalty

Perreras said the Office of the Ombudsman had the jurisdiction to try Garcia for violation of Republic Act No. 3019, or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act.

The mandatory penalty for violation of Article of War 96 is separation from the service, Perreras said.

"The benefits [of Garcia] can be forfeited. It can be included in the punishment to be imposed by the general court-martial," he said.

Garcia may choose to collect his pension on a "lump-sum" basis equivalent to his last monthly salary of around P36,000 for three years, or elect to receive his monthly pension, also equivalent of his last monthly salary.

The lump-sum pension, in Garcia's case, may amount to around P1.5 million, including other salary benefits. He can also collect his reimbursement from the Retirement, Separation and Benefits System and the Government Service Insurance System, depending on their monthly contributions.

Garcia will be provided a defense counsel by the military but he might choose to avail himself of the services of civilian and military counsel, Perreras said.

The military has named eight senior officials who may compose the court-martial. Perreras said this was only a "short list" submitted to Abaya. A final list has yet to be released.

Perreras also said Garcia would be entitled to his right to challenge any officer of the court-martial before he can be arraigned. Once challenged, this member is taken out of the court-martial and replaced with another officer.

'Huge amounts'

The Office of the Ombudsman said a preliminary investigation of the criminal cases showed that "a prima facie case exists against" Garcia and his family for holding in his behalf "huge amounts of money and properties manifestly out of proportion to his salary."

It said the family members acted as "conspirators, conduits, dummies and fronts" of Garcia in "receiving, accumulating, using and disposing of his ill-gotten wealth."

It added that Garcia's family "concealed" and "dissipated" the assets to "prevent their being found and forfeited in favor of the government."

Among the assets are real property and cash deposits in the United States amounting to $2,310,630.29.

The Garcias were also found to have P12-million investments in the Armed Forces and Police Savings and Loan Association.

Abaya's wife challenges Miriam: Name names

From page A1

She also said the women were easy to spot because their salt-and-pepper hair was now colored.

Abaya said, however, that she did not have the resources to hire a personal driver or even to get her hair straightened.

"Look at my hair—it's not even straight," she said. "It's a good thing I don't have any money to go to the beauty parlor. Because if I had the time, I would have the money. I don't even have a driver. I don't even have security even if I'm an undersecretary of the National Anti-Poverty Commission. Maybe I should have a driver from my office. [But] I never had a driver. I always drive myself to and from the office. I get a driver [only] when I know it would be hard for me to get to where I'm going."

In Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said President Macapagal-Arroyo's position on Santiago's exposé on the alleged corruption in the military was to "hasten the investigation" of the AFP.

"Her point is, let's zero in on those who are really guilty. But the greater majority of our soldiers and officials who are upright and who observe the code of conduct should be isolated from these sweeping statements," he said.

The President had earlier called on political leaders to tone down their attacks on the military, saying they should not "drench the uniform in dishonor for the wayward acts of a few."

Danger to democracy

But Santiago escalated her attack on what she had called the military "Mafia," saying corrupt officials were "a serious danger to our democratic way of life."

She said that contrary to the claim of AFP spokesperson Edilberto Adan that she strengthened the "enemies of the state" with her privilege speech on Monday, the "Gang of 12" composed of the chief of staff and the J officials was the real threat to democracy.

As an act of "preemptive self-defense," Santiago blocked Adan's confirmation as lieutenant general by the powerful Commission on Appointments, which met yesterday for an organizational meeting.

She said Adan's promotion to the next rank should not be confirmed because of his "fascistic mind-set."

She also said that as deputy chief of staff, Adan was now part of the "syndicated corruption led by the chief of staff who, together with the J-1 to J-11 generals, [now make up] the 'Gang of 13.'"

Suppliers

Abaya said that per her recollection, there were only two occasions when military suppliers approached her.

The first time, she said, was when she was asked to resolve a supplier's problem with pending payments: "All I did was ask where the documents were. And then I found out that the case related to that had been pending for a long time and was in fact already with the Office of the President. So I told them the AFP cannot do anything anymore."

She said the other occasion was when she was asked to facilitate an introduction to Brig. Gen. Efren Veran of the AFP Medical Center regarding the military's medical supplies: "I checked with General Veran this morning. That person never even went to [him]."

But General Abaya said he did not know of any incident wherein suppliers had approached his wife.

"They don't even approach me, much less Mrs. Abaya," he said.

Training programs

Abaya admitted going to the AFP Medical Center—but only to visit wounded soldiers, she said.

She also said she and the other spouses of senior officials were conducting livelihood programs for soldiers' wives.

They have trained around 3,000 wives in 37 camps nationwide, she said.

"Hopefully, these ladies [will] live up to their promise to us that they will use what they have learned," Abaya said, adding:

"We taught beauty culture, we taught massage and cooking. I told them, 'These are skills that you can use for their families, so that your husbands won't have to get a massage from others.'

"[I also told them to] cook for their families, cut their husbands' and children's hair. That's already one way of saving and stretching the salaries of their husbands."

Psywar

In a letter submitted to the Commission on Appointments, Santiago said the syndicate of corrupt military officials was resorting to the "psywar tactic" of convincing the public that she was smearing the whole AFP.

She wrote: "He (Adan) exemplifies the attempt by some in the military to reverse the constitutional provision by, in effect, asserting the supremacy of the military over civilian authority, particularly as personified by the Philippine Congress and the Commission on Appointments. Consequently, he and his military ilk pose a serious danger to our democratic way of life."

Santiago solicited the "vote of disapproval" of the 24-member commission against the confirmation of Adan, who was issued an indefinite appointment on Oct. 20.

The commission's agenda only included the election of its officers, so the matter was not discussed. But each member was given a copy of the senator's letter.

Basis for objection

Santiago cited as basis for her objection Adan's statement—"It is wrong for her to say that. It is an insult to the officers corps"—as reported by INQ7.net the other day.

"This statement is not only arrogant and impudent, but also violates the Constitution, Article 2, Section 3, which provides: 'Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military.' A general commits unconstitutional insubordination when he arrogates the power to judge the statements of a senator contained in a privilege speech," she said.

'Panic mode'

Santiago also said Adan and "his cohorts" appeared to be on "panic mode" when the general said she "seems to have conveniently forgotten that her brother [Benjamin Defensor] is a former chief of staff."

She pointed out that the basic principles of debate and argumentation prohibited any resort to personalities, which, she said, was considered a cheap shot and unacceptable in civilized debate. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

4 vital gov't witnesses in Nida murder missing

From page A1

military intelligence chief Galileo Kintanar, had been tortured and left for dead before he tried to give his testimony to investigators.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said that the National Bureau of Investigation had lost contact with the witnesses and their families around three months ago, dealing a major setback to the government's case.

The disappearance of the witnesses is also expected to delay further the filing of the second petition for the extradition of principal accused Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's husband who is in the United States.

"This will affect the case. We were waiting for them to strengthen our extradition petition. They were substantially vital witnesses," Gonzalez said.

He identified the missing witnesses as Ricardo Alvarez, Roberto Canete and Diolito Molines, all security guards and Alfredo "Aldo" Rodriguez, Kintanar's helper who had confessed to helping monitor Blanca's movements before her murder.

Blanca was found dead at the Atlanta Center building in San Juan on Nov. 7, 2001. Alvarez, Canete, and Molines were assigned at the building.

The search

Gonzalez said the NBI had checked the witnesses' addresses in Metro Manila and in the provinces. But the four witnesses and their families were nowhere to be found.

"The NBI sent out agents to locate them but, all of a sudden, they could not be located," Gonzalez said. "Strangely, nobody can tell us anymore where they and their families are."

Gonzalez said the NBI needed to prepare the witnesses for their testimony before the Pasig City Regional Trial Court, which is hearing the murder case against Strunk and Philip Medel Jr.

Gonzalez said that while the witnesses had executed sworn affidavits, their testimony in court was still needed. He said the NBI was not able to secure the witnesses after they gave their sworn statements during the preliminary investigation.

Gonzalez urged anyone to inform the NBI and the DOJ of the whereabouts of the witnesses.

"We want to be sure that these people were not murdered to silence them forever," Gonzalez said.

He said that somebody might have convinced the witnesses to stop cooperating with authorities.

Gonzalez said he was considering placing the witnesses on the NBI wanted list if they did not surface.

Important witness

Gonzalez said that Rodriguez was the most important among the four witnesses since he had confessed to monitoring Blanca's movements before the murder.

He noted that somebody also tried to kill Rodriguez in Tarlac when he tried to approach the authorities after the killing.

"He was manhandled, tortured, and left for dead," Gonzalez said. He did not identify Rodriguez's assailant.

After the attempt on his life, however, Rodriguez sought the NBI's help.

Gonzalez said Rodriguez, who was also a security guard, told the NBI that he, Philip Medel, and engineer Vicente "Dodong" Polinar tailed Blanca a week before her murder.

Rodriguez told investigators that Polinar bought an old Mitsubishi Gallant, which was used in the surveillance operation. Rodriguez allegedly drove the Gallant, while Polinar and Medel tailed the actress.

Narcom ID

Medel allegedly displayed his Narcotics Command identification card on the rearview mirror whenever the surveillance team parked the car so that the police would not disturb them.

Security guard Rogelio Salutin said he had to go into hiding in August 2002 after two armed men allegedly identified with Kintanar went looking for him at his apartment.

Salutin claimed to have seen Strunk with Medel at an apartment owned by Kintanar.

Kintanar's name surfaces

Kintanar's name surfaced in the investigation when authorities found out he owned the Quezon City apartment where Medel lived.

The retired general's name came up again after two witnesses—retired Army Maj. Pedro Pates Jr. and Leonilo Gonzaga—testified that they heard a certain Col. Benny Letrondo suggest during a meeting at Kintanar's home that they think of "effective damage control methods" to keep Kintanar's name out of the Blanca murder case.

Kintanar had denied having anything to do with the murder. He also denied knowing Strunk or Blanca but admitted meeting Medel in the course of his stint as head of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil ■ *Assistant Editor* Cenon B. Bibe

Cop dies solving robbery spree

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE Officer 2 Reynaldo Andres was known to always give his all as a law enforcer.

At 2:30 a.m. yesterday, along Romualdez Street, Ermita, he gave up even his life responding over and beyond the call of duty.

Andres was the third Manila lawman killed in two weeks. Earlier, Supt. Manolo Martinez was ambushed in Sta. Mesa, while Sr. Insp. Emmanuel Sanchez died with his wife in a stabbing incident in Parañaque City.

Andres, an investigator who had been a policeman for five years, left the Ermita station of the Western Police District at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday.

He was supposed to go off duty thirty minutes later at 11 p.m. but left early so he could check on reports of a spate of robberies along Romualdez Street.

Four hours later, Andres and an alleged robber were dead, while another suspect was seriously wounded following a brief exchange of gunfire.

SPO3 William Gondranios said in his report that Andres was in casual clothes and was riding a scooter when he decided to follow up on the robberies reported to their station.

Police said Andres apparently staked out the street until 2:30 a.m. when he saw two men standing in the dark near Ayala Boulevard.

Andres approached the two men and introduced himself as a policeman. However, one of the two men, Daniel Larora, 30, allegedly drew a .22 caliber revolver and shot the policeman.

Andres was hit in the neck and the right shoulder.

But before he fell, police said he managed to draw his .9 mm service pistol and fire back.

A stay-in worker

Larora, a stay-in worker at the Remus Trading Company on Romualdez Street, was hit in the chest and the left side of the body. He reportedly died on the spot.

Larora's companion and co-employee, Sammy Ortigo, 28, was hit in both legs and in the right arm. He was rushed to the Philippine General Hospital for treatment.

Police recovered four spent caliber-22 bullets, four spent 9 mm bullets, Larora's alleged gun and a fan knife from Ortigo.

Andres' firearm was missing.

Colleagues said it was not unusual for Andres to conduct follow-up operations alone, saying he had felt capable of handling cases alone.

Brave and hardworking

Andres was detailed with the mobile patrol unit before being assigned to the Ermita station.

Colleagues described him as brave, kind and hardworking.

They believe that his diligence prompted him to stake out Romualdez Street even after his shift had ended.

Desk officer SPO2 Rolando Nicolas said Andres usually reported for work half an hour early for his 3 p.m. shift and at times left hours after his shift had ended.

"He worked hard and was very friendly. He is a great loss," Nicolas said of Andres in Filipino.

QC execs nab 107 erring vendors

By Tina G. Santos

QUEZON City officials apprehended yesterday 107 vendors in three public markets for allegedly cheating consumers by maintaining defective or unauthorized weighing scales.

City treasurer Victor Endriga said the scales they confiscated from vendors at the Balintawak, Cloverleaf and Muñoz markets were either tampered, defective or unlicensed.

Using a test weight, city officials discovered that the vendors had not been giving the right amount of goods that their customers were paying for.

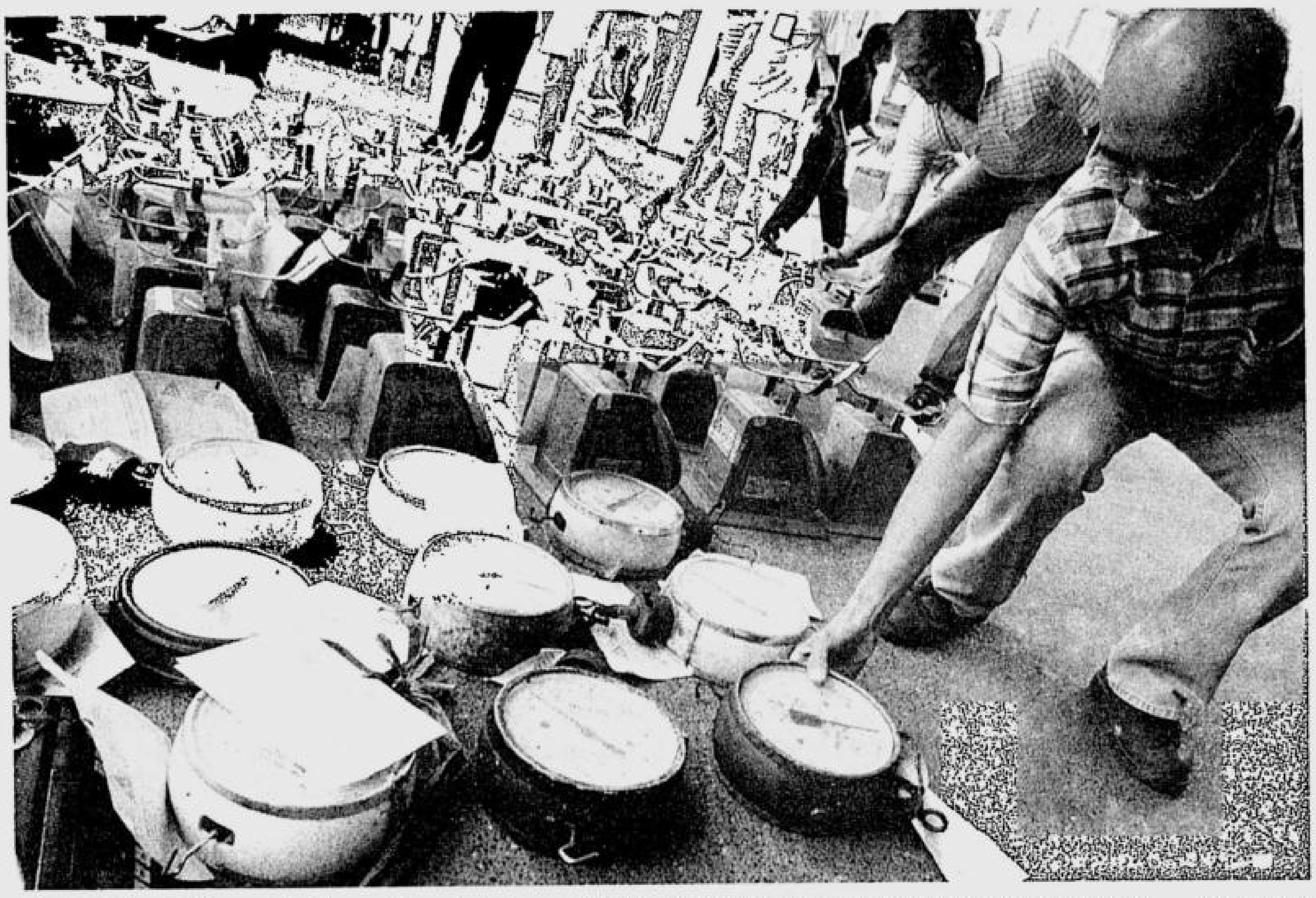
Endriga said they conducted a surprise inspection following complaints from consumers.

"Weighing scales are very easy to manipulate," Endriga admitted, adding that most of the vendors caught duping the public were fish sellers.

Vendors with correct but unlicensed scales were fined P200.

On the other hand, vendors with licensed but defective or tampered scales were made to pay P400 each for the first offense.

For the second offense, violators will be fined P800 while third-time violators will face closure of their stalls, Endriga said.



QUEZON City officials examine dozens of reportedly tampered or illegal weighing scales confiscated from vendors in the city. EDWIN BACASMAS

School principal swap stirs up Tondo teachers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TO SWITCH or not to switch?

Confusion reigned in two Manila high schools yesterday as one of their principals, who had been scheduled to trade places with a colleague, appeared hesitant to do so.

The Division of City Schools of Manila said yesterday that Alice Blas, formerly of Lakandula High School in Tondo, Manila, was supposed to assume the post as principal of Nolasco High School today.

Blas had volunteered to be reassigned to another school to reduce the tension between her and Lakandula teachers who were against the privatization of their school canteen. The school division recently said the contract Blas had entered into with a private contractor regarding the management of the canteen was legal. The teachers had insisted that their cooperative should continue running the canteen.

Olimpiada Camilo, Nolasco High School principal, had been assigned to take Blas' place at Lakandula. "They should report to the division office today for the formal turnover, but they have already received their transfer assignments," said Isabelita Santos, assistant division superintendent for secondary schools.

Despite the decision favoring Blas, the principal had asked for a reassignment, saying she was concerned about "the students' welfare." The division had approved her request, and Blas was immediately transferred to Nolasco. But Blas had a change of heart yesterday. "I could recant my transfer]," she told the INQUIRER. "As far as I know, I am on leave starting Oct. 28 until January, and I will not report to work."

Blas said she had applied for a leave from the school division. Santos said they had received the application, but the papers had not yet been processed.

Blas claimed she was just "pressured" into asking for a transfer, adding that she felt she had to stay in Lakandula to put the school in order.

Nolasco teachers, meanwhile, have filed a petition in the school division seeking Camilo's retention, citing that their principal had performed well in her two year stay at the school.

Santos, however, said Division Superintendent Luisa Quiñones had already made her decision about Blas' appeal for a transfer.

"We must explain to the teachers that the transfer would have to take effect," Santos added.

Upsilon-Sigma Delta holds reunion

BATCH '64 of the Upsilon Sigma Phi and the Sigma Delta Phi will hold a grand reunion to celebrate their 40th anniversary.

There will be a dinner-dance at Ang Bahay ng Alumni Center in Diliman, Quezon City tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. All Upsilonians and Sigma Deltans are invited. For details, call Ben Tabin, cell no. 0917-8470918 or tel. 433-1365.

When coup rumors abound

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon said at least three generals were planning to stage a coup in the wake of the corruption scandal in the Armed Forces.

I have no doubt Biazon was telling the truth about the plot since he still maintains contact with old buddies at the AFP where he was once chief of staff.

But Biazon should not be gullible enough to believe that retired generals can still stage a coup d'etat. Who will follow them in their charge at the windmills?

No matter how powerful a general or colonel is when he is in the service, he loses power once he steps down. True, his former subordinates still salute him, but they won't follow him as they would if he was still in the active service.

Those retired generals were just hallucinating when they hatched the coup plot. Let them be since everyone is entitled to his flight of fancy.

* * *

Coup rumors abound whenever a crisis or scandal besets the nation.

Top leaders in government should be thankful for the coup rumors. The more rumors circulate about an impending power grab, the more our leaders should cheer.

Coup rumors are like a safety valve. The more rumors there are that a coup is about to take place, the less likely it will happen. Barking dogs don't bite.

* * *

President Macapagal-Arroyo's pledge to check the country's runaway population growth will not endear her to local prelates of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Church, which meddles in the affairs of government, opposes artificial contraceptives. It advocates only the rhythm method.

But the only way for the government to address the population problem is to propagate artificial contraceptives like pills and condoms.

The President should stand firm against possible pressure from the Church. Her stand on population will determine whether the country will become prosperous or get further mired in poverty in the coming years.

Right now, there are 80 million Filipinos living in a very small country. If the population is left unchecked, we will be a population of 160 million within a decade.

Imagine a boat that can hold only three persons having 20 passengers. What do you think will happen to the boat? It will sink. That will happen to the country if more people are taken aboard the Philippine ship.

So, Madame President, ignore the priests and bishops who pressure you on family planning because they don't get blamed when things get bad.

Besides, priests and bishops should not make rules where they don't have the expertise. Family planning is not right down their alley because they're supposed to be celibate.

* * *

The allegations that some officials of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology were pocketing the food allowance of inmates could be true.

One BJMP official was able to build a mansion in Baguio City. He has a fleet of luxury cars.

Don't tell me he was able to build that mansion and buy many luxury cars with his salary.

Dipping into the food allowance of inmates is the main source of graft at the BJMP.

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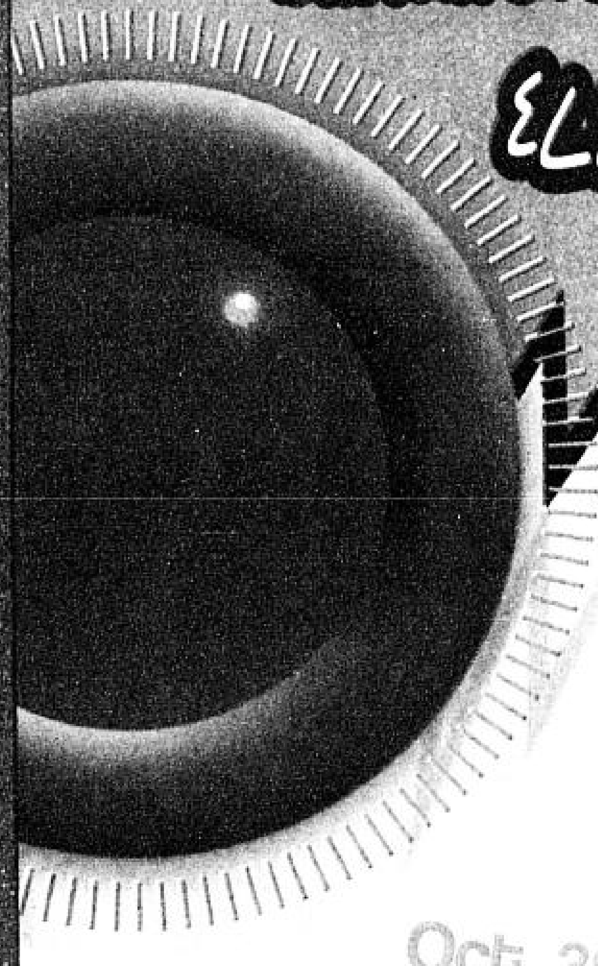

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SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BASEBALL: MLB World Series Red Sox vs Cardinals, Game 4; 8 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.); ESPN - Will 86 years of frustration finally end for Boston or will St. Louis stay alive?

BASKETBALL: NBA Pre Season Games - Pistons vs Celtics; 7 a.m. (r-8 p.m.); Solar Sports - Defending champion Detroit takes on Boston in this warm-up for the regular season.

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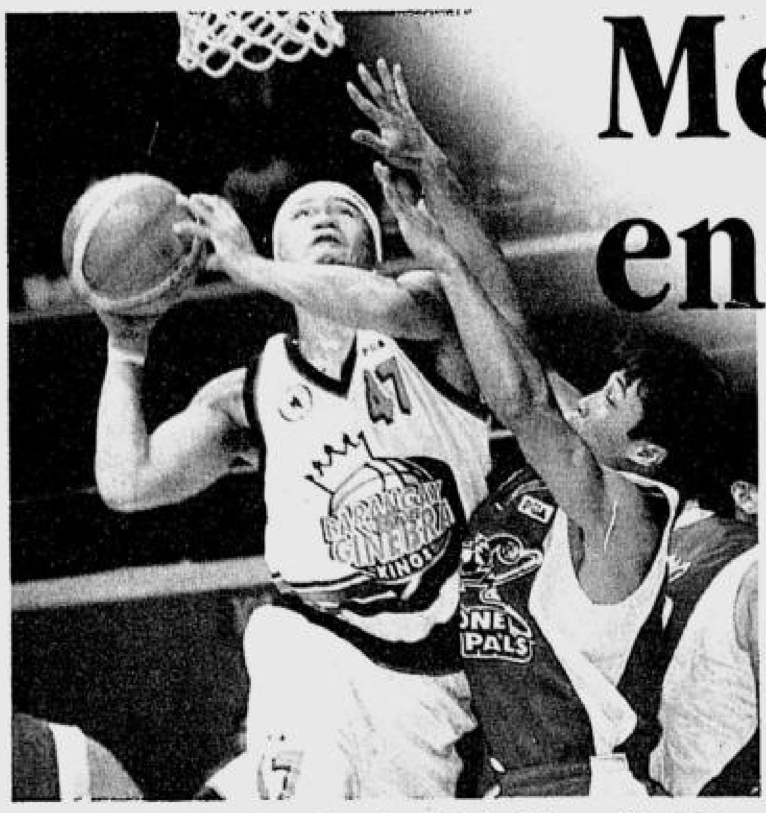
Menk shines as Ginebra ends Talk 'N Text streak



MARK Caguioa of Ginebra defies the umbrella defense of Patrick Fran of Talk 'N Text in their game won by the Kings, 91-80, last night.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Musong R. Castillo

ERIC Menk scored 22 points and grabbed 27 rebounds as Barangay Ginebra dealt a short-handed Talk 'N Text side its first loss, 91-80, in the Gran Matador PBA Philippine Cup last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

The breakout game of Menk for the tournament came against a team that won all its five previous games.

Averaging just seven points, Menk proved unstoppable as the Phone Pals failed to plug the hole created by the absence of Asi Taulava due to a dispute over his citizenship.

GAME TODAY
(University of San Agustin Gym, Iloilo City)
6 p.m.—Shell vs. Alaska

His 27 rebounds were just two shy of the all-time record by a local registered by Seven-Up's Marcelo Simbulan in 1975.

"He's been gutting it out," said coach Siot Tanquingcen of his hard-working center, who missed just four of 13 shots from the field.

In the second game, John Arigo had 17 points while Ali Peek had 14 in their debuts with Coca-Cola, which routed FedEx, 84-67.

Meanwhile, Shell (4-1) shoots for ashare of the early lead with the Phone Pals today when it battles Alaska (1-3) in another out-of-town sortie in Iloilo presented by Lactovitale, the official food supplement of the PBA road show.

The scores:

GINEBRA 91—Menk 22, Santos 15, Caguioa 14, Adducul 12, Helterbrand 12, Seigle 9, Dimaunaham 4, Noble 3, Salvacion 0.

TALK 'N TEXT 80—Miller 17, Alapag 16, De Ocampo 12, Telan 10, Pablo 8, Belano 7, Salangsang 6, Ravena 2, Camaso 2, Fran 0.

Quarters: 24-25, 44-48, 65-62, 91-80.

Second game

COCA-COLA 84—Reavis 19, Arigo 17, Peek 14, Abarrientos 11, David 9, Wainwright 5, Morano 5, Juinio 2, Antonio 2, Chia 0, Lao 0.

FEDEX 67—Gonzales 14, Ferriols 10, Se 10, Pingris 9, De Ocampo 8, Ritualo 6, Billones 4, Arboleda 4, Codiñera 2, Ejercito 0, Sison 0, Yap 0.

Quarters: 22-18, 41-32, 64-52, 84-67.

Magnolia-FEU faces Toyota Otis for lead

GAMES TODAY
(Pasig Sports Center)
2 p.m.—Magnolia vs Toyota Otis-Letran
4 p.m.—Welcoat vs Montaña

TWO college powerhouses fight for the early lead when Magnolia-FEU and Toyota Otis-Letran collide today in the PBL Open Championship at the Pasig Sports Center.

The Ice Cream Wizards and the Knights gun for their second straight victories when they meet at 2 p.m.

The two squads are hoping to redeem themselves after failing to defend their titles in the recently concluded collegiate series.

FEU lost to La Salle in the UAAP Finals, while Letran dropped from first to third place in the NCAA.

In the second game, Welcoat Paintmasters and Montaña Pawnshop try to recover lost ground when they clash at 4 p.m.

Magnolia outlasted Montaña in double overtime, 82-75, in their opening game last Saturday. Arwind Santos, the reigning PBL and UAAP MVP, delivered a big game with 15 points and 19 rebounds.

Meanwhile, Mac Cardona and Jerwin Gaco escaped with just a reprimand from commissioner Chino Trinidad and will suit up for ICTSI-La Salle when they meet rival Addict Mobile-Ateneo on Saturday.

Cardona was ejected last Tuesday for elbowing Granny Goose's Marvin Cruz, while Gaco was slapped an unsportsmanlike foul for hitting Toti Almeda. *Jasmine W. Payo*

DOJ wants judge out of 'Fil-sham' case

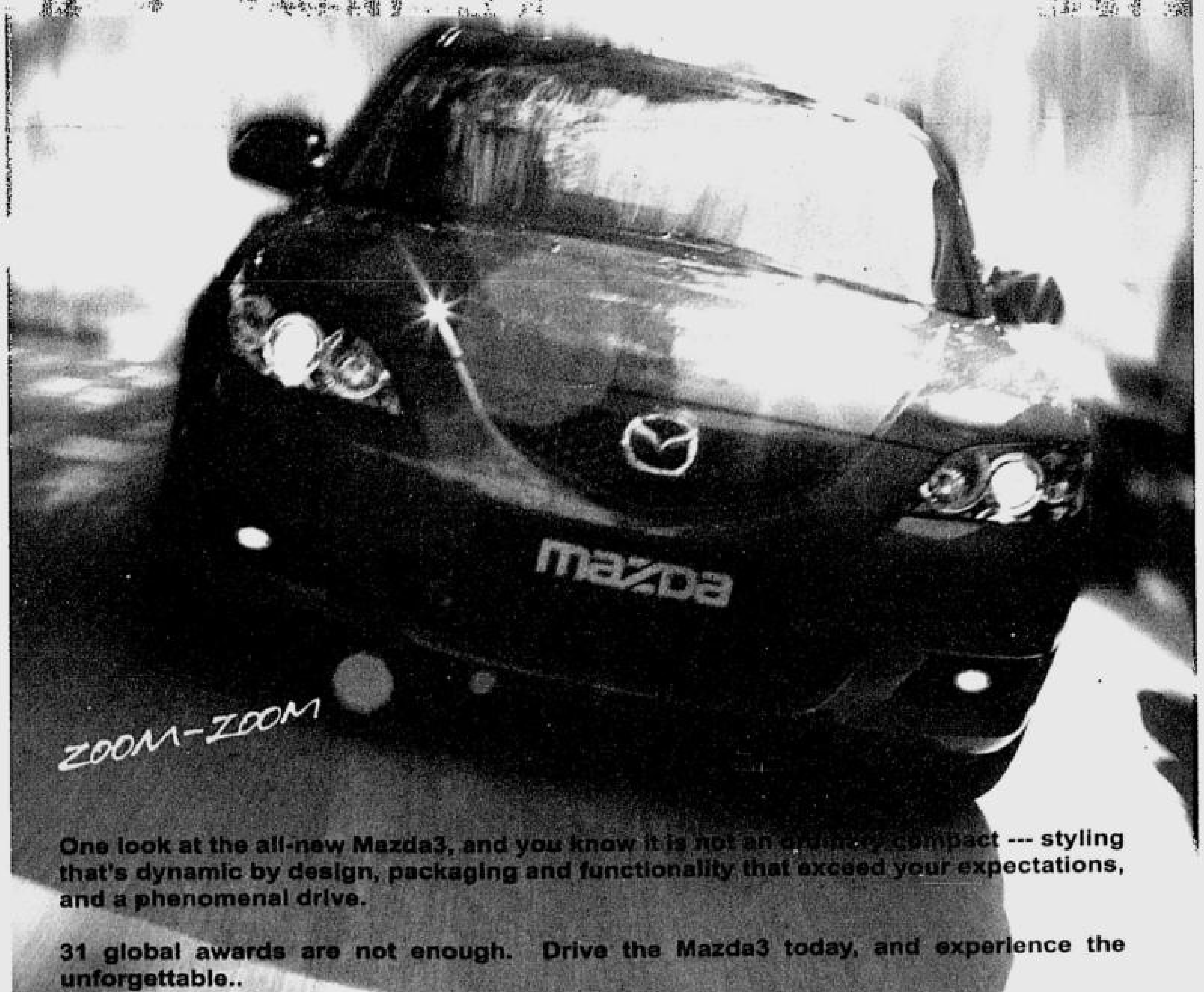
By Philip C. Tubeza

JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said the Department of Justice would ask the Manila judge hearing the deportation case of Barangay Ginebra's Alex Crisano to inhibit himself from the case.

Judge Marcelino Sayo, according to Gonzalez, had allegedly issued hastily a temporary restraining order on Tuesday against the deportation of Crisano, one of five foreign-born players in the Philippine Basketball Association declared by DOJ last Oct. 18 as 'Fil-shams' for faking their citizenship papers.

He said the DOJ was not properly notified about the hearing and was not able to prepare its opposition to Crisano's petition.

As this developed, MRTC Branch 50 judge William Simon Peralta yesterday issued an order for status quo on the preliminary injunction being sought by Coca-Cola cager Rudy Hatfield pending the submission of a written pleading of a petition from the Office of the Solicitor General.



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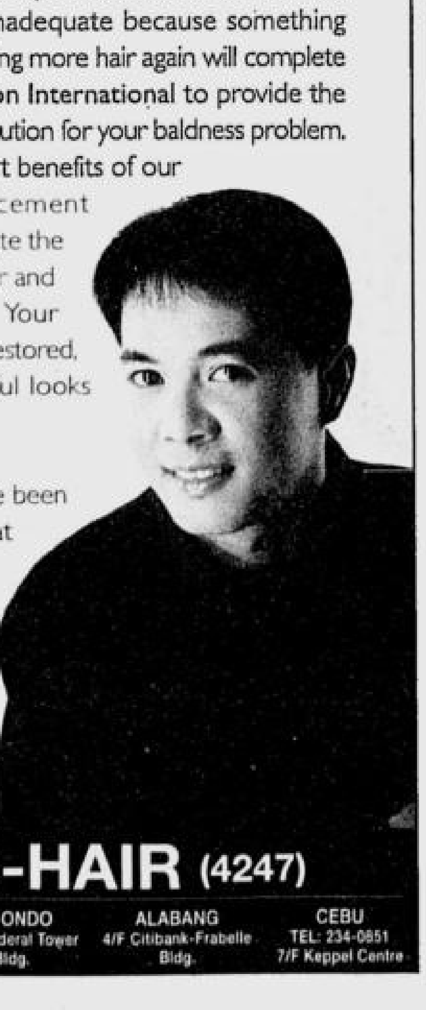

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Saragoza pads lead with a 68

By Musong R. Castillo

CANLUBANG—Boyet Saragoza pulled further away from the field by shooting a four-under 68 at the North Course yesterday to take a seven-stroke lead heading into the final 36 holes of the Canlubang Amateurs.

The pint-sized 31-year-old gunned down six birdies in a 33-35 round and moved closer to clinching a second win in three weeks with a 10-under 134 total counting his opening round 66.

Saragoza hit all but two fairways and missed just one green, the long par 4 13th for his second bogey. He earlier gave back a stroke on the par-3 sixth when he three-putted from 15 feet.

Trailing the winner of the Samsung Championships in Malarayat two weeks ago was Canlubang teammate Ronnie Torrecampo, who assembled a 69 to claim second spot at 141.

Korean teenager Kim Chang Hoi also had a 69 and moved to third, eight strokes off the lead even as Marvin Dumandan signed for a level 72 to stay at 1-under 143 and drop to fourth from third.

Raymund Sangil ballooned to a 78 after a 69 Tuesday, falling four rungs to fifth with a 147 total.

Former RP Amateur champion Dave Hernandez barged into the top 10 after a 71. The golf course manager of Calatagan course now has a 150 total for eighth spot.

UP HIGH QUAD GOLF: Lawyer Tim Abejo of UP High School 1979 swings it during the Quad Golf Open tournament at the Valley Golf Club in Antipolo, Rizal, recently. Abejo's flightmates includes former President Fidel V. Ramos (left), the guest of honor.

Ateneo de Davao wins

DAVAO CITY—Ateneo de Davao's cagers downed Sacred Heart, 83-76, to retain the Passerelle title, but their younger counterparts lost the SBP crown to Ateneo de Zamboanga, 46-51, Sunday in the Milo BEST Mindanao regional finals at the Almendras gym here.

The AdeD boys took the half, 36-24, but the AdeZ youngsters had to overcome a 21-27 deficit at the turn. Marist (Notre Dame) trimmed Xavier University, 62-56, and Ateneo de Zamboanga crushed Marist, 69-54, to finish third in the SBP and Passarelle divisions, respectively.

Paraplegics hold Pinoys to 2-2 tie

The leaders after 11 rounds:

OPEN SECTION: 32.0—Ukraine; 29.5—Russia; 29.0—Armenia; 28.0—Israel; 27.5—India, United States; 27.0—Poland; 26.5—Bulgaria, Georgia, France; 26.0—Cuba, Azerbaijan, Switzerland, Czech Republic, China, Slovenia; 25.5—Spain A, Serbia Montenegro, Moldova, Germany, Bosnia Herzegovina, Hungary, Greece; 25.0—Slovakia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Australia; 24.5—Netherlands, Estonia, England, Canada, Latvia, Belarus, Spain B, Macedonia; 24.0—Romania, Lithuania, Argentina, Denmark, Iceland; 23.5—**Philippines**, Scotland, Norway, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Croatia, Turkey, Singapore, IPCA, Tajikistan, Austria

WOMEN'S SECTION: 26.0—China; 22.0—Georgia; 21.5—United States, Hungary; 21.0—France, England; 20.5—Russia, Slovenia; 20.0—India, Azerbaijan; 19.5—Poland, Ukraine, Slovakia, Bulgaria, Armenia, Serbia Montenegro ... 15.5—**Philippines**, Spain B, South Africa, Denmark, Venezuela, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico

MALLORCA, Spain—Hope turned to despair Tuesday when the Philippines was held to a 2-all draw by IPCA (International Physically Disabled Chess Association), a team of paraplegic players, in the 11th round of the World Chess Olympiad.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio and International Master Jayson Gonzales won with the white pieces at board one and three, respectively, but IM Mark Paragua and Emmanuel Senador lost.

As a result, the Filipinos remained mired in 42nd place with 23.5 points in the company of Scotland, Norway, Vietnam, Bangladesh, Croatia, Turkey, Singapore, IPCA, Tajikistan and Austria.

With three rounds left, the Filipinos' bid to duplicate their seventh place finish in 1988 in Thessaloniki, Greece appears dim, considering that they trail seventh-running Poland by 3.5 points.

But a Top 20 finish is still within reach, depending on how the Filipinos perform against neighboring Singapore Wednesday in the 12th round.

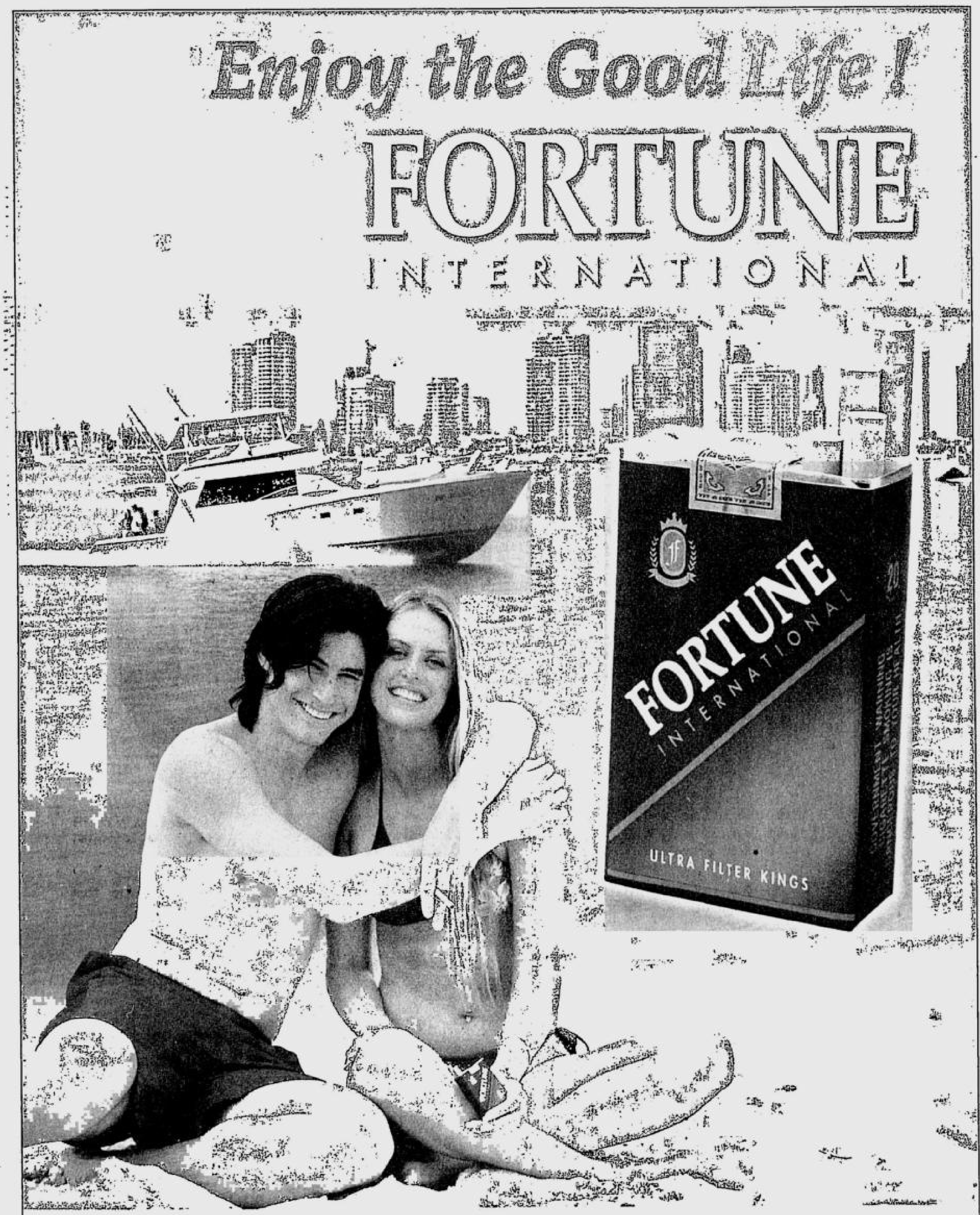
Team captain Sammy Estimo, visibly shaken by RP's inability to put away the 74th-ranked IPCA, is expected to field the regular board players against a team they beat handily in Bled, Slovenia two years ago.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, fresh from a two-day break, will be back to man the first board.

Antonio, the only undefeated player in the team, mans the second board, while Paragua gets a chance to recover when he plays white at board three. Gonzales, who has lost only once in nine matches, completes the lineup.

Coming off a self-imposed four-game rest, Antonio used the Alapin to crush the Sicilian defense of Markku Pukkila in 38 moves.

In women's play, the Philippines and Mexico battled to a 1.5-1,5 tie with Women IM Beverly Mendoza providing the lone win against WIM Joara Chaves. Rookie Loreshyl Cuizon drew with Evandra Cruz. Women FIDE Master Sheerie Joy Lomibao lost to Suzana Chang in the top board.



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Alex reaches poker semis

FILIPINO-CANADIAN pool ace Alex Pagulayan is now in the semifinals of a $500,000 poker tournament among sports celebrities.

Representing billiards, Pagulayan won his qualifying table of 6 celebrities to make it through the first round of the "Pacificpoker.com European Open," Europe's richest televised poker tournament, promoted by Matchroom Sport on Challenge TV.

The other celebrities included Steve Davis, a top darts player, and TV presenters. Pagulayan took his place in the first round proper on a table of 6 including Matchroom Sport President Barry Hearn and four professional poker players. All had paid the $10,000 entry fee which Alex won. The semifinal takes place on Nov. 5.

Paro, Fuentes vs Thais today

By Salven L. Lagumbay

PHILIPPINE No. 4 super flyweight Sherwin Paro and No. 5 mini fly Rocky Fuentes will vie for World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific titles today against Thai champions in Thailand's Uttradith province.

The lanky 23-year-old Paro (14-3, 9 KOs), a protege of Cebu businessman Tony Aldeguer and Marty Elorde, challenges reigning champ Pramuansak Phosuwan in a 12-round bout.

The Cebu-born Fuentes (8-1, 5 KOs), a former national amateur champ, takes on WBO No. 3 Kaichon Sor Vorapin, younger brother of WBO bantam king Ratanachai Sor Vorapin, for the vacant light fly title.

Pramuansak, ranked WBO No. 2, won a gold medal in the 1998 Asian Games and also competed in the Olympic Games twice in 1996 and 2000. He will be making the 14th defense of his crown against Paro.

Outdoor Quest opens in Sabah

OUTDOOR Quest, the only international adventure race in Asia that has been instrumental in the growing popularity of the sport in the region, comes off the wraps today in Sabah, Malaysia, with 21 of the world's elite adventure racing teams competing.

Now on its eighth edition, the race will feature seven events—running, mountain biking, kayaking, paddling, in-line skating, team biathlon and adventure skills. Awaiting the winning team after the completion of the event on Nov. 2 is the top prize of $75,500 from the total prize of $255,000.

Competing in this year's event, set over five stages, are teams from New Zealand, Finland, Switzerland, Australia, Malaysia, China, Japan, the United States and Sweden. A team from the Philippines was supposed to compete but withdrew due to lack of sponsors.

The competing teams will cover the pristine beaches of Sabah to the highest peak of Malaysia's Mount Kinabalu.

Leading the field in the event supported by the Malaysian Ministry of Youth and Sports, Sabah Tourism Board, Malaysia Airlines, Suunto, Nexus Resort Karambunai, Spritzer, Wall's and Mera Pharmaceuticals, is defending champion Team Seagate of New Zealand.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Pedro done with Boston?

ST. LOUIS, Missouri—Pedro Martinez pitched the Boston Red Sox to the brink of their first World Series title since 1918 in what could be his farewell appearance for the club.

Minutes after a a 4-1 victory over St. Louis here Tuesday in his Series debut, the 33-year-old Dominican right-hander began making a pitch for a new contract and talking about the Red Sox as if his time with the team were done.

"It has been a great ride," Martinez said. "I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. I enjoyed my career in Boston."

"I hope I get another chance to come back. But if I don't, I understand the business part of it."

Martinez made his case for a new deal, but he also is being wooed by the New York Yankees, whose $183-million payroll is the only budget beyond Boston's $150-million bank-buster.

"I hope many other people understand I wasn't the one who wanted to leave," Martinez said. "I'm only doing what I have to do. And they are going to have their chances to get me back in that uniform. If they don't get me it's probably because they didn't try hard enough."

"My heart is with Boston. My emotions are always going to be there," said Martinez. "I'm just going to do whatever possible to remain here." *AFP*

Bernis leads RP squad in Hong Kong tourney

By Musong R. Castillo

TWO PHILIPPINE teams of three players each tee off in separate parts of the globe today and tomorrow. Reigning Philippine Amateur champion Jun Bernis, dropped from the World Amateurs squad because of US visa woes, settles for a stint in the Hong Kong Open Amateur championship starting today along with Erwin Vinluan and former caddies' winner Jay Bayron.

Bernis will be the last member of Team RP to tee off at the Hong Kong Golf Club's New Course together with Syren Johnstone and Mark Fisher at 7:50 a.m.

Vinluan is in the tournament's first flight together with Tim Orgill and Arnold Wong at 7:30 while Bayron plays with Tim Yuen Lee and Simon Stilwell in the 7:40 a.m. group.

Tommy Manotoc and son Matthew are also playing in the individual side of the tournament.

Meanwhile, the A-Team that has worked long and hard for the World Amateurs in Puerto Rico plays its final practice round today still in high spirits despite the expected tough competition.

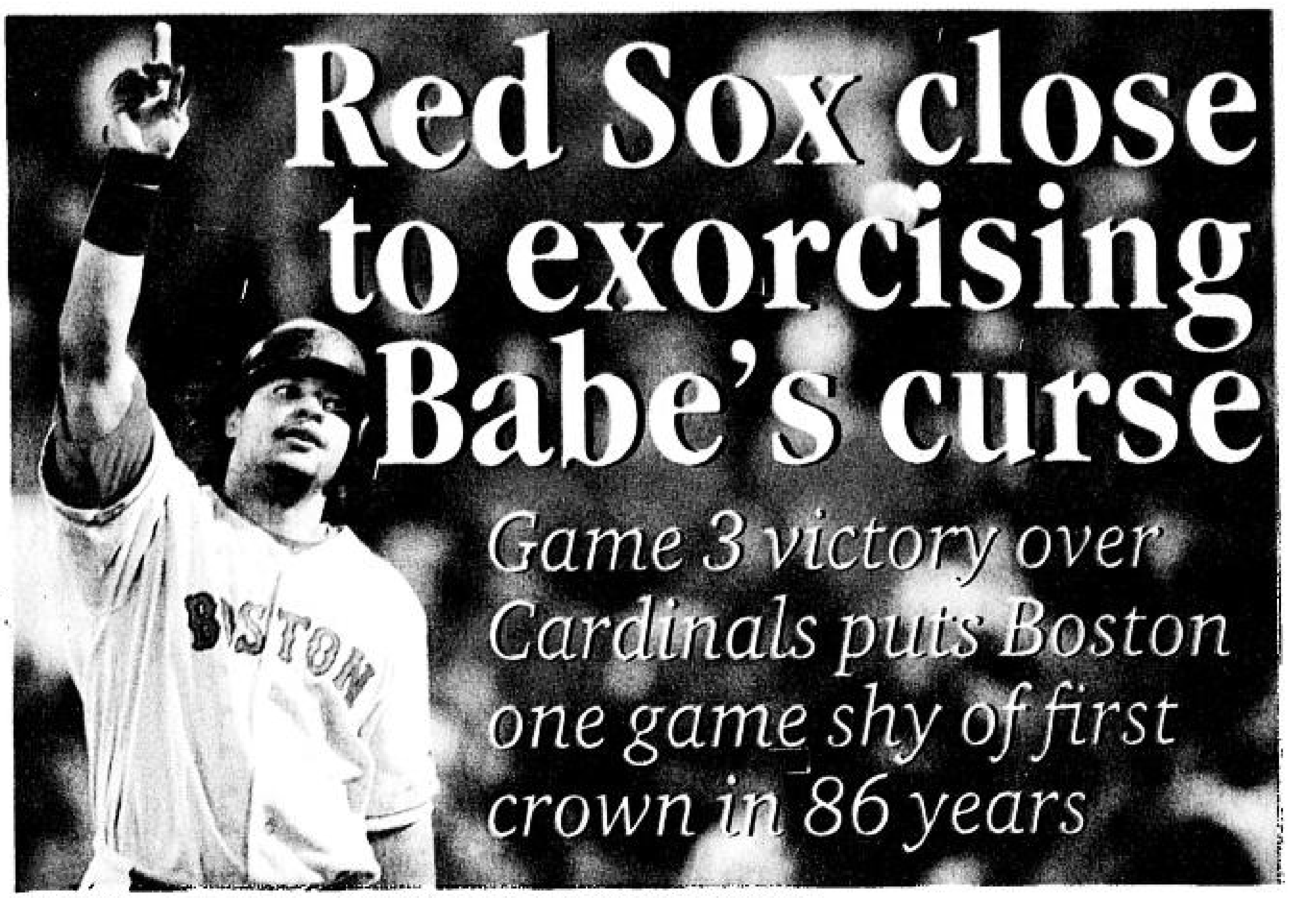
"We are doing well in practice," said Artemio Murakami, who replaced Bernis, in an overseas interview with the INQUIRER. "We've had three practice rounds so far. The course is long and tough. But we have been playing well, specially Juvic (Pagunsan)."

The Ocean and River courses of the Rio Mar Resort will be the sites of the world joust and Murakami said that they are now far different venues from the ones that the ladies played last week with both courses stretched to more than 7,000 yards.

"It is hazard-laden and very long," said Murakami, who won the RP Amateur as a 15-year-old in 1999 and is in his first stint as a national team player.

Michael Bibat is the third member of the team that is looking to improve on a best-ever third place finish in the biennial event achieved twice before, in Hong Kong in the 1980s and in Malaysia two years ago.

Both tournaments will use the three-to-play, two-to-count format.



Red Sox close to exorcising Babe's curse

Game 3 victory over Cardinals puts Boston one game shy of first crown in 86 years

MANNY Ramirez celebrates after hitting a solo home run in the first inning.

ST. LOUIS—Only a curse can stop the Boston Red Sox now—and they know all about such things.

With their baseball stars and lucky stars aligned, the Red Sox beat the St. Louis Cardinals, 4-1, Tuesday and moved within one win of their first World Series championship since 1918.

Then again, historic collapses are part of their legend.

No one knows better than the Red Sox that a 3-0 lead can be overcome; they just did it to the New York Yankees. And no one knows better than the Red Sox how elusive that last win can be; four times they've been one win away and four times they've lost.

"We're not going to relax that much," Boston starter Pedro Martinez said. "I don't think our team's going to relax as much as the Yankees were."

Martinez made his long-awaited Series debut a special one, bailed out when Manny Ramirez and David Ortiz did as much damage with their arms as bats. Backed by the surprising show of defense, Boston made it look too easy.

"It is big, but we learned our lesson against the Yankees," Ramirez said.

So after being only three outs away from getting swept last week, Boston is on the verge of sweeping the club that led the majors in wins this year and claiming the ultimate prize.

"It's something you've got to notice. It's possible," Cardinals manager Tony La Russa said.

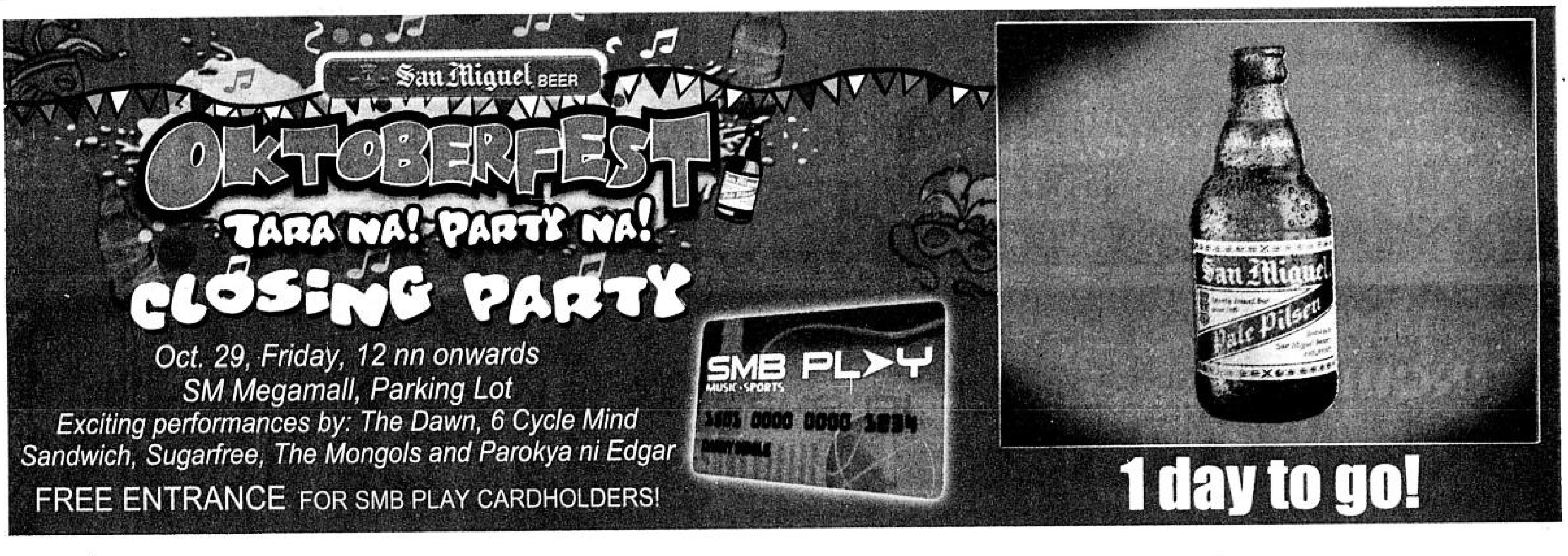
"I think the one thing I'm absolutely confident about is that we've come too far to give an effort that will embarrass anybody tomorrow," he said.

Derek Lowe will try to finish it off for Boston on Wednesday night, starting against Jason Marquis in Game 4.

"We don't want people to think this Series is over," Lowe said.

Still, Red Sox fans gathered around the Boston dugout and chanted "One more win!" after the final out. A sign was also curiously posted on a side scoreboard at Busch Stadium: "Thanks for a great 2004 season."

A victory in Game 4 will end an 86-year-old title drought, one blamed on the "Curse of the Bambino," which started when the Sox sold Babe Ruth to the New York Yankees. *AP*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SEAG venues known today

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHERE the 41 sports for next year's Southeast Asian Games will be held will be known when the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) meets today.

Among the main concerns during the 9 a.m. meeting at the Philippine Sports Commission is the venue for swimming and boat races and the extent of renovations to be done on the PSC facilities like the Rizal Memorial track and football stadium and the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

Philsoc venues chief Red Dumuk yesterday said at least four sites are being considered for swimming, a centerpiece event like athletics, which will offer 45 gold medals.

The candidates are the old Rizal swimming pool, which reportedly needs at least P15 million to meet the SEAG standards, the Panaad Sports Complex in Bacolod, the pool in San Pablo City and another in Makati City.

"We have to come up with an official list of venues at least one year before the 2005 Games begins," said Dumuk.

PLATINUM CUP

Olympic hosts North elims

THE FINAL qualifiers for the grand finals of the inaugural Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Platinum Cup will be known this weekend when the eliminations wind up with the North area competitions at the Olympic Badminton Center in Libis, Quezon City.

The North sector is the biggest of the four area eliminations of the Platinum Cup co-presented by INQUIRER Badminton and Globe Platinum with 18 courts in Quezon City scheduled to compete for the slots at stake.

Entered are Woosh, Libis Badminton Center, Serve N Smash, Battledore&Shuttlecock, Yellow Feather, Chut's, Toss N Smash, Sureplay-Murphy, Sureplay-Araneta, Don Antonio Sports Center, Banawe Badminton Arcade, Star Smash, Celebrity Sports, Greencourt, C4, Premiere City Club, Pinnacle and Olympic.

Major sponsors include Philippine Airlines Mabuhay Miles, Mizuno Badminton and LTime Studio. Nestlé is the official drink provider, Gerflor Taraflex the official mat sponsor, Gosen the official shuttlecock, Westin Philippine Plaza the official hotel.

Already in the finals of the country's first showdown among badminton courts and facilities set on Nov. 20-21 at the Market! Market at the Bonifacio Global City are the top two finishers in the first three area eliminations.

They are Valle Verde Country Club and Player's Best for the East, Alabang and Anvil for the South and Manila Polo Club and The Zone which ruled last week's Central area eliminations.

They will be joined by the qualifiers this weekend and the three seeded teams from the south (Pohang of Bacolod, Metro Sports of Cebu and Holiday Spa/Bangayan of Davao) in the finals.

Clubs entered will compete in the men's doubles, ladies doubles and mixed doubles. They will be aiming for the No. 1 spot in their respective groups to get a chance of securing tickets to the finals.

SPORTSWATCH

Manila Sanitarium benefit golf tourney

THE MANILA Adventist Medical Center (formerly the Manila Sanitarium and Hospital) in cooperation with the Manila Sanitarium Foundation Inc. will hold the Sixth Invitational Golf Tournament at the Riviera Golf and Country Club, Silang, Cavite, today. Tee-off time is 8 a.m. For information, contact 536-3677 or 527-9191 local 106.

Kiamco gains 9-ball quarters

LITTLE known Israel Rota missed an easy shot on the No. 4 ball in the 13th frame, allowing fellow Cebuano Warren Kiamco to escape with a 9-4 victory in the round of 16 of the Motolite 9-Ball Philippine Open at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater in Parañaque City yesterday. Kiamco moved to the quarterfinals today, against Ramil Gallego, who routed Bobby Petiza, 9-0. Aladin Duloa nipped Jarry Guevarra, 9-5, while Roberto Dy bested Victor Arpilleda, 9-5. *Marlon Bernardino*

Ticala reaches badminton 3rd round

RIZAL High's Angelo Ticala beat Sto. Nino School's John Librato, 7-15, 15-13, 15-4, yesterday to reach the boys' 12-under singles third round in the 2004 Toby's Age-Group Badminton Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills gym. Ticala will meet Palm Crest School's Carl John Amisola, who scored a 15-1, 15-1 victory over Marist's Nathan Tabones. In other matches, PNP's Peter Gabriel Magnaye downed Marist's Erickson Bautista, 15-2, 15-1, while GCBC's Ivan Angsico clobbered Dean Potenciano, 15-1, 15-0.

Pharmaton-Runnex Executive Runs

EVERYTHING is set for the Pharmaton-Runnex 10K Classix Executive on Dec. 12 at the UP Diliman Campus. Sponsored by Pharmaton, the 10k and 5k runs will highlight the 21st anniversary of the Executive Runners Club (Runnex) Philippines Inc. The races, which start at 6 a.m., are limited to professionals, businessmen and members of the Officers Corps, AFP and PNP aged 29-above. For details, call 3714445, 248-0288, 251-6742, 366-9367, 363-0357 or 922-7502.

Burlington joins PBA's Campus Tour anew

THE COCA-COLA Tigers and the Lyceum Pirates go through the ceremonial tip during one of the campus tours.

BURLINGTON will again join hands with the Philippine Basketball Association for another staging of the Campus Tour, an exhibition series pitting professional teams against varsity squads.

"The Campus Tour is very much in line with the thrust of Burlington to get youth into sports and further develop their skills," said Burlington general manager Ruddy Tan.

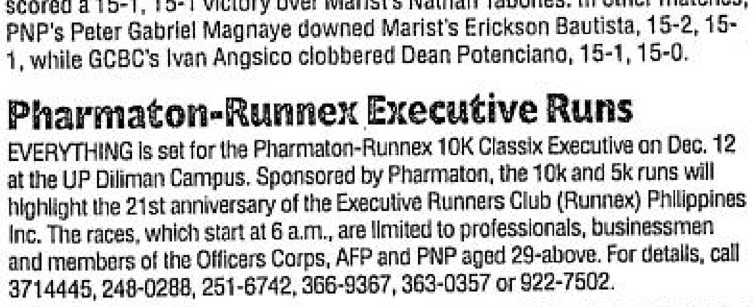
The 10 PBA squads will visit various campuses and play against UAAP and NCAA teams.

But aside from the games, Burlington, which introduced a revolutionary product—the Burlington Shock XT designed with extra pads to absorb impact and prevent foot injuries—will host a 45-minute basketball clinic under coach Norman Black to initiate a skills development program among the spectators.

Burlington will allow the audience to interact with Black and his assistants during the clinic.

Traditionally, the Campus Tour involves a PBA team playing against a school where one of its resident superstars study.

This gives students a chance to see their former varsity players suit up against the cuttent crop of standouts representing their schools.



CHESS OUTFITTER: Dickies, American Star Apparel Philippines Inc., outfitted the Philippine chess team competing in the 36th Chess Olympiad in Majorca, Spain. In the second row (from right) are NM Emmanuel Senador, GM Eugene Torre, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and NM Darwin Laylo. In the front row are WIM Beverly Mendoza, Loreshyl Culzon and WNM Alces Salvador, who was left behind.

ENTERTAINMENT

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CEBU DAILY NEWS
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Wolves lead Lakers, 2-1
P5M ALLOCATED TO COUNTER SARS
Tom meets health, hospital officials

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JOLINA'S BOYFRIEND A LAWYER /A28

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5	Shark Tale
6	Doll Master
7	Cellular

events! events!

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OCTOBER 29 4 PM Activity Center	OCTOBER 30 3 PM Activity Center	OCTOBER 30 3:30 PM Central Plaza
8th of Manila 2003's Best New Group Awit Awardee	Junior Inquirer's Halloween Children's Party	McDonald's Halloween Costume Fun Day

Developed and managed by Ayala Land, Inc. Another retail innovation.

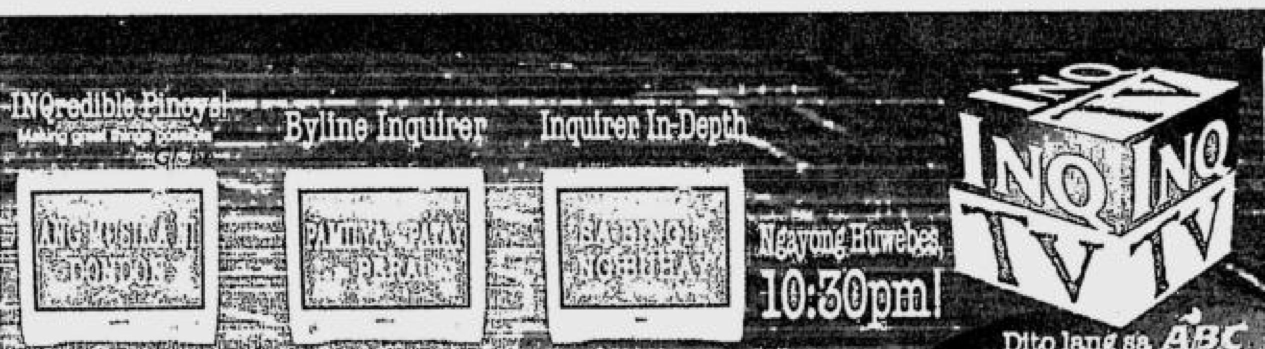
JOLINA Magdangal

Even a rug would look good on Kristine /A26

'The Grudge' scares up money at box office /A25

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Thursday, October 28, 2004



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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN		Sarah The Teen Princess	Maid In Heaven	Sandara's Romance	Tokyo Underground	Samurai X	Get Backers	Ragnarok	TV Patrol	Star Circle Nat'l Teen Quest	Krystala	Marina	Hiram	It Might Be You	Maalaala Mo Kaya			Insider	Dong Puno
NBN	Value Vision				Teledyaryo	Value Vision		Family Rosary Crusade	The Working President	Ugnayang Pambansa		Teledyaryo				Dial M		Unlimited Diving	
ABC	Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko	Pre-Game Show	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Secrets	Inq TV		Dream Music Videos		
GMA	Leya (2:45 PM)	Joyride (3:15 PM)	Twin Sisters: 100% Señorita		One Piece	Rune Soldier	Slam Dunk	24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Mulawin (7:50 PM)		Starstruck (8:50 PM)	Forever In My Heart (9:20 PM)	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN	Metro TV Shopping			Diyos At Bayan		Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Invader Zim	Entertainment Tonight	Sabrina	Raising Dad	Monk		Crossing Jordan		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasangga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC		Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		IBC Express Balita		Home Shopping Network		WWE Experience		Travel	Japan Video Topic		Entrepinoy	Good Take	IBC News Tonite		
Solar		WWE Smackdown				Mutant League	Godzilla	Superman	Maxsteel	Babylon V		Evolver (Gamer TV)/Tough Enough		WWE Confidential		Fire Power			
Nickelodeon	Dora, The Explorer	Little Bear	Blues Clues	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	Invader Zim/Catdog	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	All That	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show	Rocket Power	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brother's Garcia
ETC		Good Morning Miami	What I Like About You	The Today Show		Starting Over		NBC Nightly News	Entertainment Tonight	Will & Grace	JKX	Ed		Girls Behaving Badly	Simple Life 2	Tonight Show With Jay Leno		Blind Date	Fifth Wheel
Cinema One	I'm Sorry My Love				Minsan Lamang Magmahal					Mano Po 2				Impakto				Kung Kailangan Mo Ako	
Studio 23	Bewitched	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	UAAP				X-Men Evolution	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Wazzup Wazzup		Barkada Nights				News Central	The Oprah Winfrey Show		Spin City
AXN		Bloodfist III				Maximum Exposure		Samurai X	Samurai X	24		Now See This	Now See This	Kingdom Hospital		Past Midnight			
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Baywatch		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Just Shoot Me	Smallville		Buffy The Vampire Slayer/Simple Life/For Love Or Money	Young, Posh & Loaded			Just Shoot Me	Smallville
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	On Assignment	Innovation		Frontlines Of Construction		Demolition Squad	Amazing Space	The Snake Wranglers	Croc Chronicles With Dr. Brady Barr	Wild		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Innovation		Frontlines Of Construction	
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens Of	The Fix	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Molto Mario	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	Love Chain	Clean House		You're Invited	New York Nick	Breathing Room	Genuine Article	Planet Parent	Sara's Secrets
HBO				Spooky House				The Clinic (5:50 PM)			Andre (7:25 PM)			About Schmidt				Mission Impossible	
Star Movies			The Marrying Man				The Curse Of Jade Scorpion			It Runs In The Family (7:10 PM)				Johnny English			Hitched		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Sylvester & Tweety Mysteries	Police Academy	Swat Kats	Teen Titans	Yu-Gi-Oh!	Digimon Frontiers	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Looney Tunes Show	Courage The Cowardly Dog	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Addams Family	The Funky Phantom	Boomerang - Boomeraction	Yu-Gi-Oh!
ESPN	X-Games X-Day 4 Part II LA				MLB World Series 2004 Game #4							Sportscenter Taiwan	MLB World Series 2004 Game #4						
Disney Channel	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Lizzie Mcguire	Even Stevens	That's So Raven	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	The Legend Of Tarzan	Lilo & Stitch/Untalkative Bunny	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Wonderful World Of Disney			My Wife And Kids	That's So Raven	Even Stevens	America's Funniest Home Video	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Cinemax		Donor Unknown (3:15 PM)				The Fisher King				Deadfall (7:15 PM)				The Core				The Birds II Land's End	
Hallmark Channel	Mad About You	A Painted House				Play With Me Sesame	Sesame Street		Bewitched	Family Law		Strong Medicine		Napoleon			Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Family Law (11:25PM)
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia				Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Monster Garage		Extreme Machines		Wild Discovery		Ultimate Discovery		Power Zone	
MTV Philippines		MTV Asia Hitlist		Non-Stop Hits		Non-Stop Hits		MTV Get Spotted	MTV Loveline	Non-Stop Hits		MTV Jams	Rouge	TRL		MTV Dismissed	Pimp My Ride	VH1 Hits/ Video Collection	
EWTN	Pilgrimage To The Shrines Of E. Europe	The Chaplet Of Divine Mercy	First Comes Love	Faith Factory	Saints And Heroes	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		The Spirit Of Catholic Leadership	Saints For The Third Millenium. St. Therese Of Lisieux	Daily Mass		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Miracles Of The Eucharist	Today With Fr. Rutler	Onward Pilgrims	The Best Of The Journey Home	

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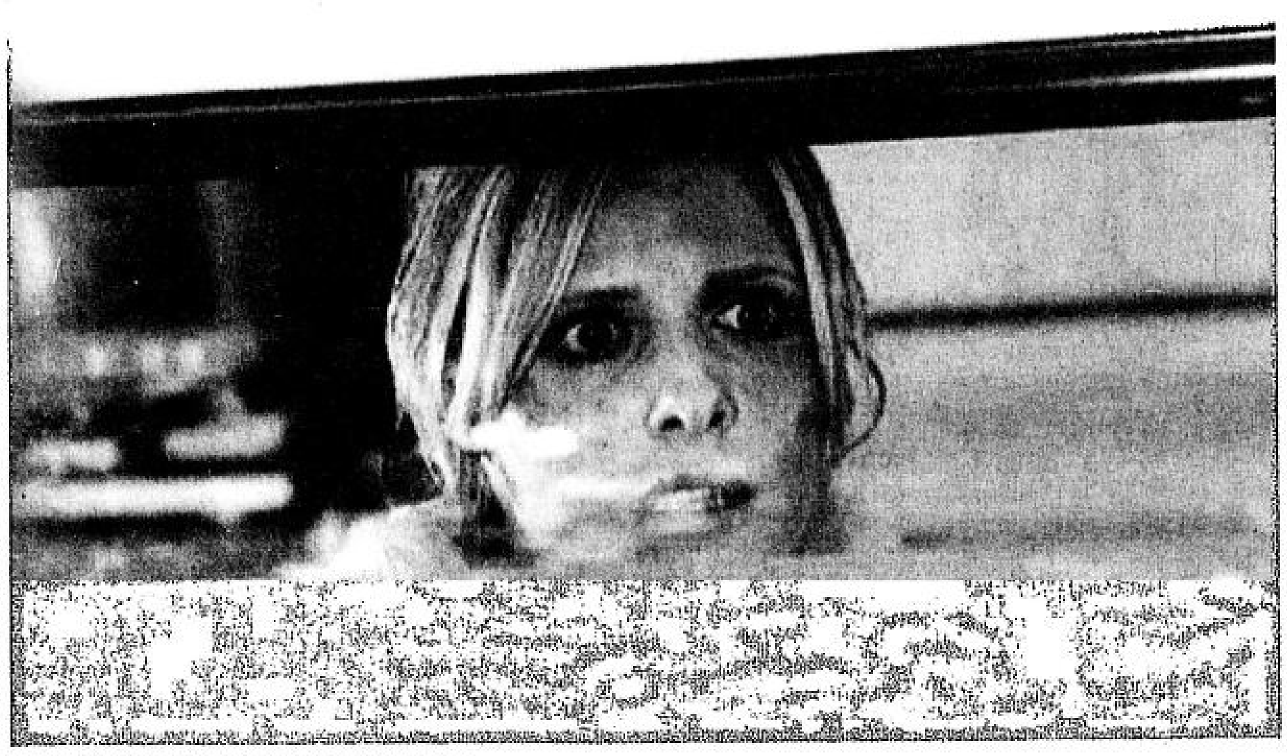
Ang inyong tagapaghatid ng ulat-pangmulat,
10:30pm na! Tuwing Huwebes
Ating kabalitaan
Cheri Mercado
Dito lang sa ABC
INQ TV



SARAH Michelle Gellar plays an American architecture student in a haunted house in Tokyo in "The Grudge."

'The Grudge' terrorizes box office competition

SHOW TIME

LOS ANGELES—Fright flick "The Grudge," directed by Japan's Takashi Shimizu, shook up the North American box office last weekend by scaring up more money than any other film, final figures showed Monday.

The horror film starring US actress Sarah Michelle Gellar seriously surprised the competition to take a total of $39.1 million and first place in the weekly ranking, box office trackers Exhibitor Relations said.

The movie tells the story of a US architecture student, played by "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" star Gellar, who lives in a haunted house outside Tokyo.

The movie is the latest twist on Shimizu's "Ju-On" series of films.

The original Japanese film, which was released straight to video, built up a cult following in the United States through the Internet and underground video distribution.

It took box office watchers by surprise by ending the three-week box office reign of the animated story of marine gangsters "Shark Tale."

"Shark Tale," the story of a family of fishy mobsters starring the voices of Renee Zellweger, Will Smith, Angelina Jolie and Robert de Niro, dropped to second place, taking $14.3 million, the box office tracker said.

"Shall We Dance," a romantic comedy starring Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon, snatched third place in its opening weekend, taking $8.6 million in the United States and Canada.

In fourth spot was "Friday Night Lights," starring Billy Bob Thornton in a story about a small-town Texas football coach, with a total box office haul of $6.9 million.

The politically charged "Team America: World Police," a team of US puppets fighting a unilateral war on terror, took fifth place with haul of $6.4 million in its second week on screens.

The feature movie from the makers of the hit animated television show "South Park," stars a cast of clunky marionette superheroes battling terrorists led by North Korean leader Kim Jong-Il.

The movie, which opened less than three weeks ahead of the US presidential election, had generated enormous controversy for its irreverent portrayal

THE GRUDGE/ A26

Keith Martin in Iloilo

SHOW TIME

BARRACKS Bar & Restaurant, Iloilo City's biggest and most popular music lounge featuring top entertainers, celebrates its anniversary with a grand show starring Keith Martin on Friday, Oct. 29.

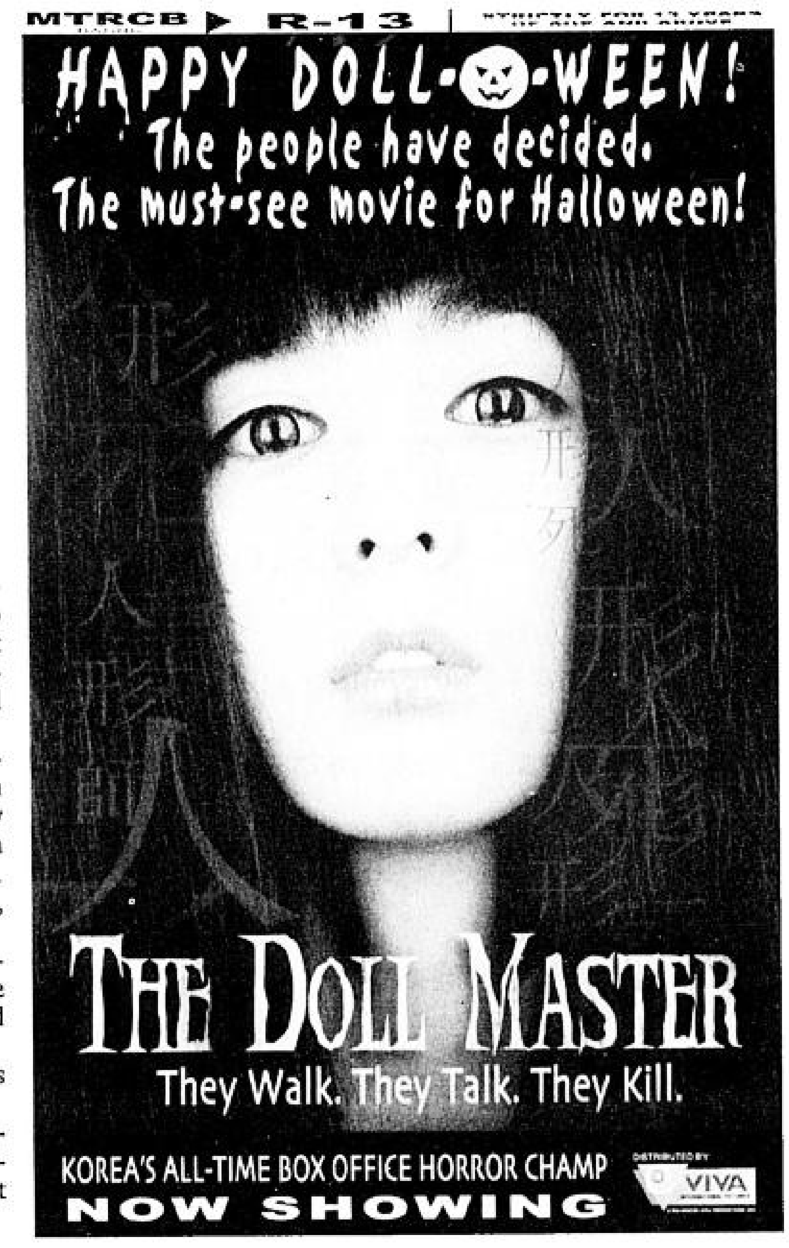
The show will also feature a full band and performers in the show that starts at 7 p.m.

Keith will also perform at Quorum Disco and KTV in Bacolod City on Saturday, Oct. 30. The shows are sponsored by Dickies Jeans, USA in cooperation with Poly/EMI Records.

Since Keith topped the charts with his single, "Because of You," he has been a most in-demand artist in Philippine entertainment scene.

He performed in several sell-out live concerts and has done shows with other Filipino entertainers.

KEITH Martin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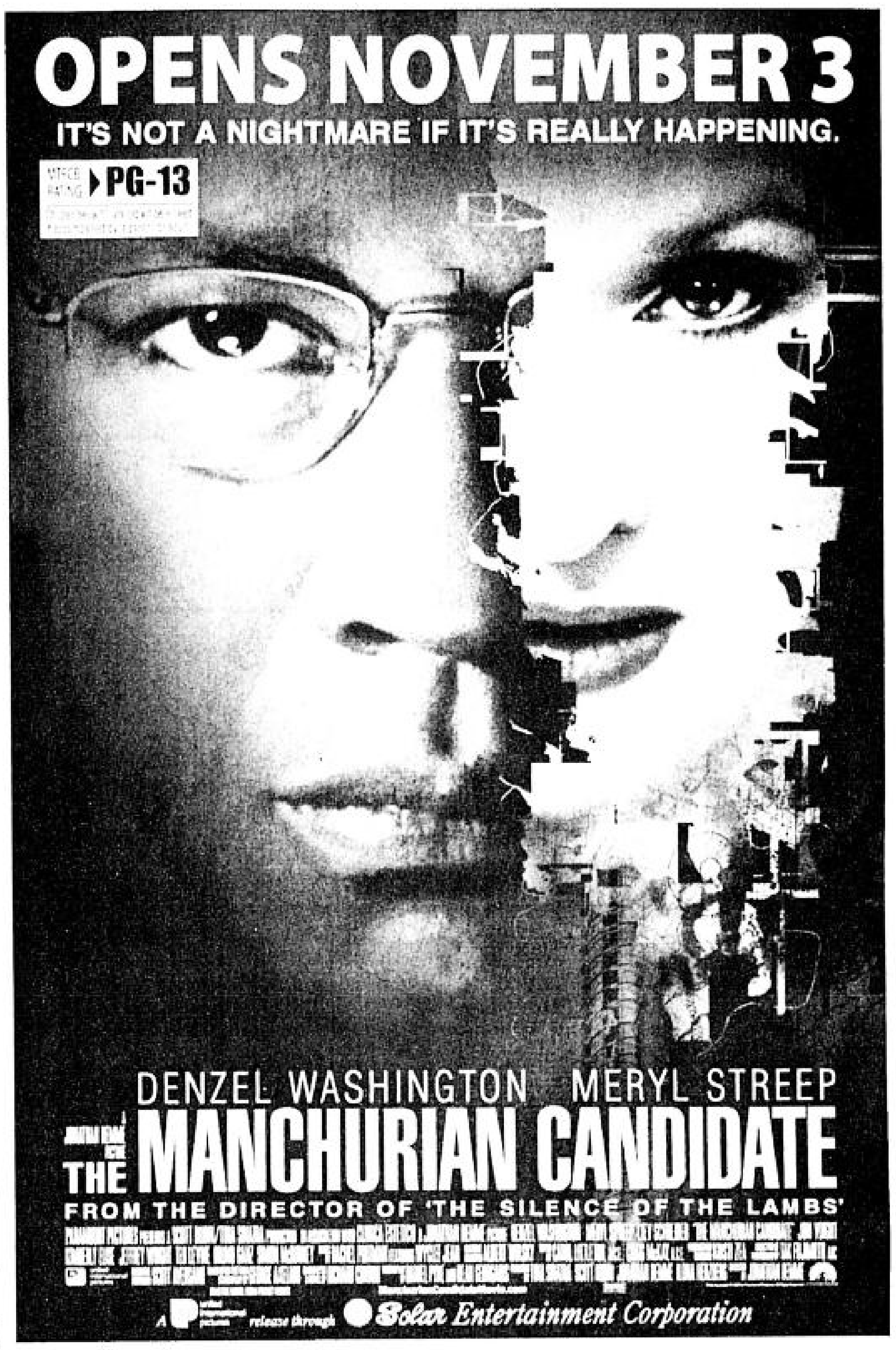
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MERYL STREEP
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'THE SILENCE OF THE LAMBS'
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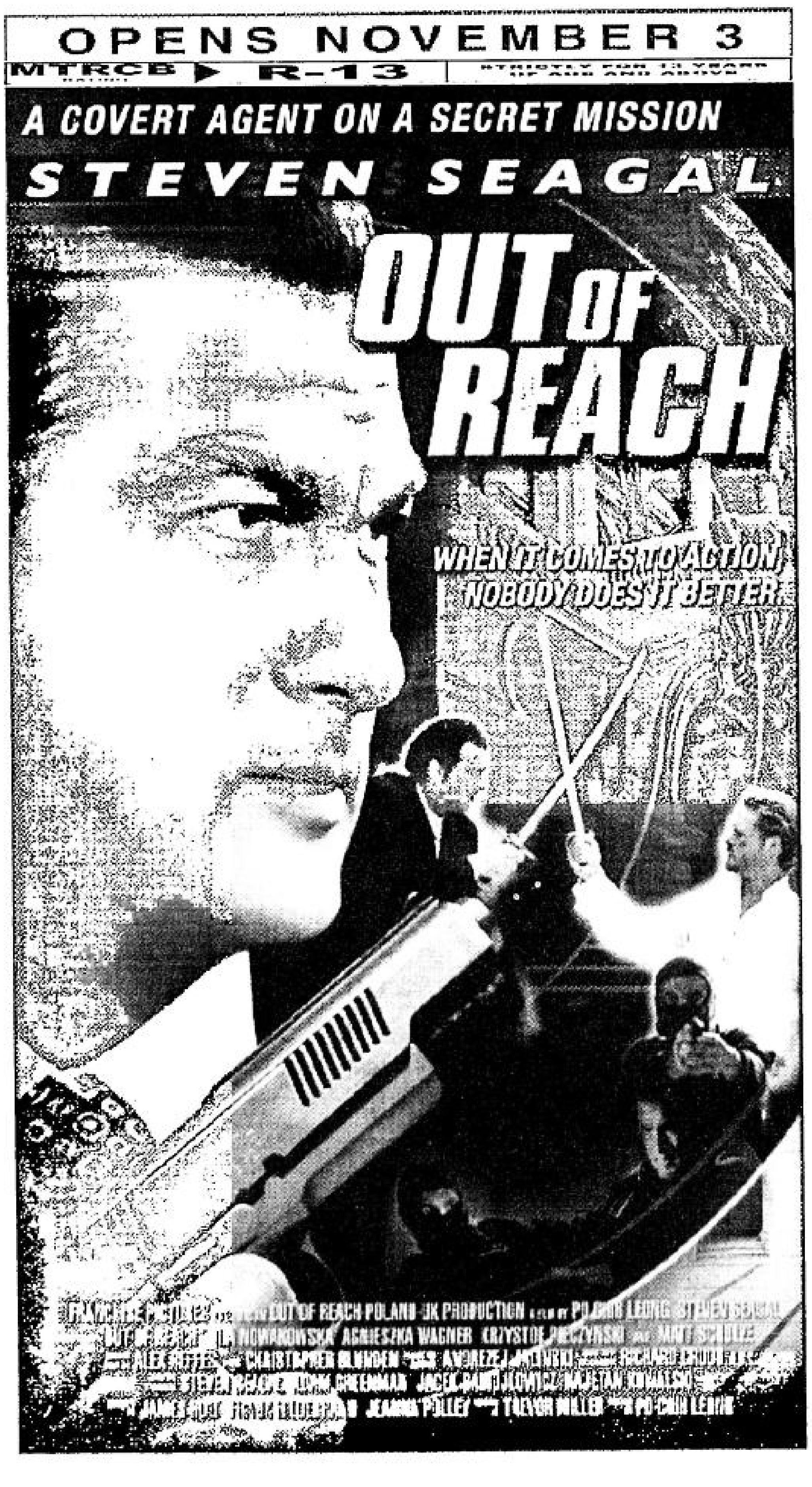
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After "THE RING" comes the American remake of another super-scary Japanese movie produced by Sam Raimi (SPIDERMAN)
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It never forgets.
SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR
BILL PULLMAN
THE GRUDGE

Even a rug would look good on Kristine

DOLLYWOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MON CHER J.M. and I were seated on the same row as **Diether Ocampo** and **Kristine Hermosa** at the Aliw Theater during the Star Awards for Television so I saw how surprised Tin-tin was when she was named "Star of the Night."

She was ravishing as ever, but it seemed she didn't exactly like what she was wearing. Before she went on stage, she held the upper part of her electric blue gown and told Diet, "Ito?" Disbelief was written all over her face. Perhaps she didn't really prepare to go to the awards and just wore an old gown.

Diet wanted to take her picture on stage but she left the stage quickly, as if she didn't like to display her gown. But with her angelic face, even a rug would look good on her.

What makes Tin-tin really beautiful is that she seems not even aware of her charms. She's not like typical movie stars who desperately seek attention and walk around with a self-balloon that reads, "Look at me! Look at me!"

Phoemela's smirk

IT WAS very noble of **Phoemela Baranda** to accept the award for "Best Reality show" in behalf of "Extra Challenge," since the hosts—**Paolo Bediones** and **Ethel Booba**—were a no-show.

Not too long ago, Phoemela was booted out of the show because she was allegedly caught taking marijuana during a shoot.

The audience wondered if Phoemela was sincere when she said in her speech, "To Paolo and Ethel, you guys deserve this!"

Doesn't she feel she deserves a second chance to be part of the show again? The smirk on her face said everything she could not say.

Mom's legacy

ALTHOUGH I didn't get lucky in the Star Awards, just being nominated for the "Best Female Celebrity-Oriented Talk Show Host" for my show with **TJ Manotoc**, "Celebrity Dat Com" (Fridays, 7 p.m., IBC 13) was more than enough to make me overjoyed. Allow me to thank the Philippine Movie Press Club for the vote of confidence.

The last time I attended the Star Awards show was with my mom when she was given a Lifetime Achievement Award. I could not help getting nostalgic when I saw familiar faces from the press and show biz for whom my mom paved the way at one point or another.

My co-nominees—**Kris Aquino, Janice de Belen, Cristy Fermin** and **Lolit Solis**—all started their TV hosting stints with my mom so it really didn't make a difference who among us won because we all came from the same source. But of course, as my mom always said, "I just opened the first door. The rest was because of their talents."

It always gives me great pride to see that the talk show genre on Philippine television, which my mom perfected, continues to flourish. Above and beyond the scoops and intrigues, may the integrity and credibility of my mom rub off on all talk show hosts *comme moi*.

Questionable timing

INSIDERS insist that **Jomari Yllana** and **Ara Mina** have indeed split up due to third parties. But some quarters question the timing of it all. Why did the controversy erupt now that their movie, "Minsan Pa," is about to be shown? Mere coincidence or pure gimmickry? Remains to be seen.

Will they reconcile after their film makes it at the box office? *Minsan pa . . .* That's show biz Pinoy-style for you.

Due to insistent public demand, the most controversial play of the year, "All About Men ... Penis Talks," will have a repeat at 8 p.m. tonight at the Music Museum.

Kolorete

I STUMBLED upon this very chic yet affordable shop, Kolorete, at 3 Timog Arcade on Timog Avenue corner Scout Torillo. It has everything your *kikay* heart desires. I could not resist starting my Christmas shopping as soon as I sampled their merchandise.

Call or text them at 926-8363 or (0917)796-8363.

Personal

MY HEARTFELT thanks to my "friend of perpetual help and sister in Christ," **Boy Abunda**, for the special mention in his acceptance speech when he won as Best Male Celebrity-Oriented Talk Show Host in the Star Awards. In my heart, I build a monument for you everyday. You're a winner, too, in the friendship department. Love yah!

For feedback, e-mail wateringhole-shangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com

'The Grudge' terrorizes box...

From page A25

of the US war on terror.

In sixth place in the weekly ranking was John Travolta's movie, "Ladder 49," a story of heroic firefighters, which took $5.3 million.

Ben Affleck's new comedy "Surviving Christmas" was seventh with a $4.4 million take on its opening weekend.

"Taxi," an action comedy starring Queen Latifah as a sassy cab driver and Jimmy Fallon as an undercover cop, ranked eighth with $4.1 million, followed by "The Forgotten" with $3.3 million.

Rounding off the weekly top 10 was the comedy "I Heart Huckabees," written and directed by David O. Russel and starring Dustin Hoffman, Lily Tomlin, Jude Law and Naomi Watts. It had gross ticket receipts of $2.9 million. *AFP*

MOVIE GUIDE
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2 RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 THREE
2 (DTS) SKY CAPTAIN
3 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
4 THE DOLL MASTERS

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 THREE
2 (DOLBY) SKY CAPTAIN
3 (DTS) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
4 THE DOLL MASTERS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SHARK TALE
2 OPEN WATER
3 (DOLBY) TOOLBOX MURDER

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 TUKSO SI CHARITO
3 (DTS) THREE
4 SKY CAPTAIN
5 THE DOLL MASTER

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283
1 TUKSO SI CHARITO
2 HAUNTED SPIRIT-2
3 (DTS) OPEN WATER
4 (DOLBY) LADDER 49

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 TUKSO SI CHARITO
2 WIMBLEDON
3 WHITE CHICKS
4 HEAVWEN'S POND

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 RAISING HELEN
2 HEAVEN'S POND
3 (DOLBY) SHARK TALE
4 (DTS) THUNDERBIRD

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 (DTS ES) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
4 GODSEND

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121
1 RESIDENT EVIL
2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 (DOLBY) HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
4 (DTS) THUNDERBIRD

Cine Nepo
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2 GINGER SNOP
3 (DOLBY) HAUNTED SPIRIT-2
4 (DTS) SHARK TALE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
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2 SHARK TALE

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2 THREE
3 (DOLBY) THE NOTEBOOK

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3 SECRET WINDOW
4 HEAVEN'S POND
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2 INTERNET QUEEN
3 TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2
4 WIMBLEDON
5 THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

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1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 THE DOLL MASTER
4 RESIDENT EVIL 2

BACOLOD 441-0458 /59
1 RESERVE
2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 THE PUNISHER
4 SHARK TALE
5 THREE
6 THE NOTEBOOK

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1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 GODSEND
3 THREE
4 THE DOLL MASTER
5 SKY CAPTAIN

IMUS 471-8188 / 875-5858
1 STEAL
2 THE DOLL MASTER
3 SKY CAPTAIN
4 THE SIN
5 TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2
6 ROOM SERVICE

STARMILLS San Fernando Pampanga 875-1927 / 061-5270
1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 TUKSO SI...CHARITO 2
3 THE DOLL MASTER
4 SAVED
5 RESIDENT EVIL 2
6 WIMBLEDON

ILOILO 336-8070 / 78
1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 RESIDENT EVIL 2
3 SECRETARY
4 OPEN WATER
5 BIG FISH
6 RESIDENT EVIL 2

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SM CINEMA movietime

SUPERBABIES
BABY GENIUSES 2
moviepickoftheWeek

I whattowatch I

THE DOLL MASTER

DOLL MASTER MTRCB Rating: R13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 4
SM City Cebu Cinema 6

HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Cebu Cinema 1
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 4
SM City Iloilo Cinema 5
SM City Pampanga Cinema 1
SM City Baguio Cinema 2
SM City Lucena Cinema 2

SHARK TALE MTRCB Rating: G
SM City Bacoor Cinema 2
SM City Davao Cinema 1
SM City Cebu Cinema 3
SM City Lucena Cinema 1
SM City Iloilo Cinema 1
SM City Marilao Cinema 1
SM City Cagayan Cinema 1.

RESIDENT EVIL APOCALYPSE

RESIDENT EVIL MTRCB Rating R13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 5
SM City Cagayan Cinema 3
SM City Baguio Cinema 3
SM City Lucena Cinema 3
SM City Dasmariñas Cinema 2

OPEN WATER MTRCB Rating: R 13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 3
SM City Marilao Cinema 2
SM City Iloilo Cinema 4
SM City Davao Cinema 3
SM City Lucena Cinema 4

THE PUNISHER MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Cagayan Cinema 2
SM City Iloilo Cinema 3
SM City Baguio Cinema 1
SM City Cebu Cinema 5
SM City Davao Cinema 2

SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW MTRCB Rating: PG13
SM City Bacoor Cinema 8
SM City Baguio Cinema 4
SM City Cebu Cinema 8
SM City Pampanga Cinema 4

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Bogus superhero of the briny deep

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

AT FIRST sight, DreamWorks' new animated feature, "Shark Tale," looks too busily hip and slick for comfort. We could take the underwater hi-jinks of "Finding Nemo," but the visuals in "Shark Tale" are too clever and congested for comfort.

In time, however, we find enough viewable aspects to the film to make it worth our while. We like the movie's characterization of its fishy protagonist, Oscar, as a small-time shyster who dreams of ending up on Easy Street—until he discovers that life there isn't easy at all!

Even more affecting is the character twist made on Oscar's young friend, a shark who's the son and heir of a vicious syndicate boss. Completely against type, the young shark is depicted as a peacenik and a softie—and a vegetarian, to boot!

Also endearing is Angie, the nice, pretty angelfish who works at a "whale wash." She secretly loves Oscar to bits, but is constantly rejected and dumped as our flawed hero falls for the charms of a cheap seductress.

These disparate characters are brought together by the accidental death of the young shark's older brother, which is mistakenly attributed to Oscar. Since all sea creatures live in mortal dread of the ruling shark "class," Oscar is instantly hailed as an avenging hero!

His lifestyle does improve tremendously, but he soon learns that there's little genuine satisfaction in living the bogus life of a superhero with fins of Kryptonite.

'National Treasure'

IN HIS latest starrer, "National Treasure," **Nicolas Cage** plays a man who has dedicated his life to guarding a treasure that most people think doesn't exist. The responsibility handed down over four generations is to protect the secret knights of the Templar treasure.

This is legendary hoard that even the father of Cage's character doesn't believe has survived to the modern age. The controversial treasure is unusually prized, because it brings not only wealth, but also power and control.

The treasure has been held by the most powerful nations on earth since the pyramids were constructed in Egypt. Cage's character himself doesn't know where the treasure is—until he becomes the first person in more than 200 years to unlock the clues that lead to its location.

The key to the treasure is a map that has been hidden since the American Revolution. Also coveting the map is the film's villain (**Sean Bean**), whose avarice is dangerous because he has no understanding of the treasure's power.

'Minsan Pa'

JEFFREY Jeturian's new movie (showing next month), "Minsan Pa," is deemed to be an innovative production because it's set in Cebu City and features some Cebuano dialogue. Along with **Cesar Montano**'s "Panaghoy sa Suba," it ushers in the revival of Visayan films.

In the movie written by **Armando Lao, Jomari Yllana** plays a tour guide and **Ara Mina** is cast as a schoolteacher. Jeffrey says he's particularly impressed with Jomari's performance here:

"The degree of difficulty of his role is very high. He had to learn how to speak Cebuano, and also has lines in Japanese, English, Korean and Spanish—while emoting at the same time!"

Feedback

FROM PAUL R. Mortel of Marikina City: "Television's primary objectives are to inform, educate and entertain. On the first two, the medium is found wanting—it dishes out about 90 percent entertainment.

"To fulfill the first two objectives, TV channels should come up with 60-second 'infomercials' on first aid for the benefit of our people, the majority of whom don't know what to do when confronted with emergencies.

"What we do or don't do during the interval before professional medical help comes could mean the difference between life and death.

"First-aid tips on TV should cover illnesses or accidents that occur often, like fainting spells, epileptic fits, dog bites, stab wounds, food poisoning, heat stroke, asthmatic attacks, bleeding, heart attacks, burns, gas poisoning, insect stings and bites, and choking.

"Because people tend to forget, the infomercials should be shown repeatedly, until the procedures are assimilated by the viewing public. The first-aid tips can be sponsored by pharmaceutical firms and companies that go in for public service spots."

Jolina's boyfriend a lawyer who knows 'how to make . . .

From page A28

nel 7's romantic series, "Love to Love," last Tuesday.

Jolina, who turns 26 on Nov. 6, related that she met her boyfriend through mutual friends a few years ago. She said she wasn't interested when he first courted her.

"We became friends instead," said Jolina. "When he disappeared from my life, I looked for him, and then we became steadies. I've been looking for someone like him who is not intimidated by my show biz status. I used to offer a candle in Baclaran Church for my love life and I believe that he is the answer to my prayers."

Jolina said her boyfriend is as tall as Richard Gomez and has a great but subtle sense of humor.

"He knows how to make me feel good," she said. "He only sends me an e-mail once in while but when he does, it's so... wow!

"When he was still here, he used to send me food that I craved for, like *tapsilog*. I also appreciate his positive outlook in life. He encourages me to go into other businesses.

"My parents approve of him," Jolina added. "He's very kind to them and to my siblings. I'm also close to his family."

The only fly in the ointment is that they are physically apart from each other.

"We really make an effort to make the relationship work," said the young star. "Living in different time zones is tough. We get to talk on the phone usually when I come home late from a taping."

She pointed out, though, that it was too early to tell if they would eventually marry each other, but she stressed that she's so happy with him. "That's why I no longer have a wish for my birthday, except maybe to be ready for the blessings that are still to come my way," he said. "I'm just so thankful and happy."

She said her boyfriend went to New York a couple of years ago to complete his master's studies in public administration at the Columbia University in New York and then he found a job in a law firm there. Prior to that, he obtained his law degree from the University of the Philippines and worked in Malacañang, she added.

"Love to Love" features two continuing stories every Sunday and runs for 13 weeks. The new season's first episode, "True Romance," stars Sunshine Dizon, Antonio Aquitania, Brad Turvey and Jacque Estevez.

The second episode, "Love Blossoms," stars Jolina, Alfred Vargas and Biboy Ramirez. Jolina plays Jasmine, a florist torn between two men. The first is her childhood sweetheart (played by Alfred) and the second is her new suitor (Biboy).

In real life, though, there's only one man in her heart, said Jolina.

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'THE GRUDGE'

$40M FIRST 3 DAYS
The biggest opener in motion pic history for a horror movie

Sarah Michelle Gellar

"The Grudge," an American remake of a hit Japanese horror movie starring **Sarah Michelle Gellar**, delivered an additional shock by grossing a spectacular ***$40 million*** in its first three days at the North American box office, doubling the expectations of its distributor.

The *Columbia Pictures* project, took over the No. 1 slot from the cartoon "Shark Tale".

At $40m, the film will go down in history as the biggest three day opener for a horror movie. The film is also the seventh #1 opening for Sony Pictures.

"If we would have done twenty (million dollars), we would have been ecstatic," said Rory Bruer, president of domestic distribution at the *Sony Corp*-owned studio.

The movie's title refers to a violent curse issued by a person who died an unnaturally angry death. The curse lives by moving on to a new victim each time somebody dies. [http://movies.yahoo.com] •

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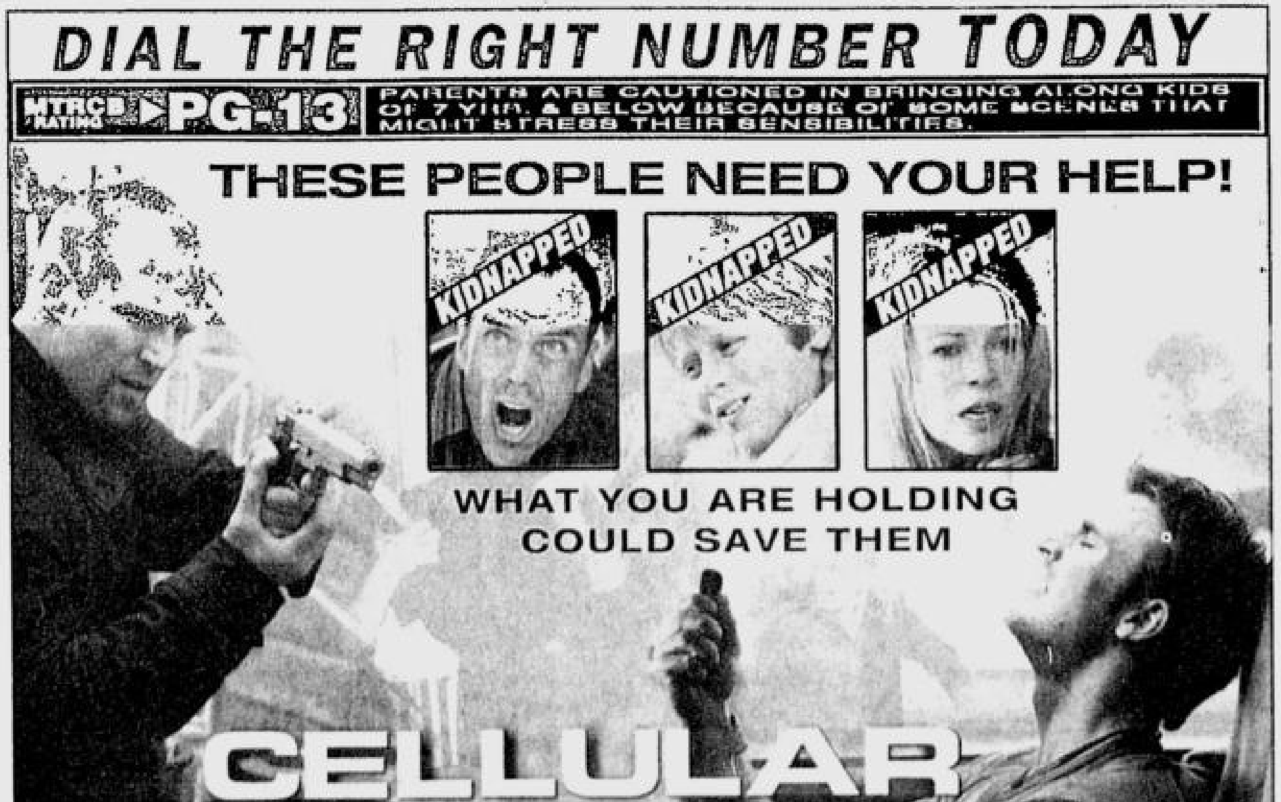
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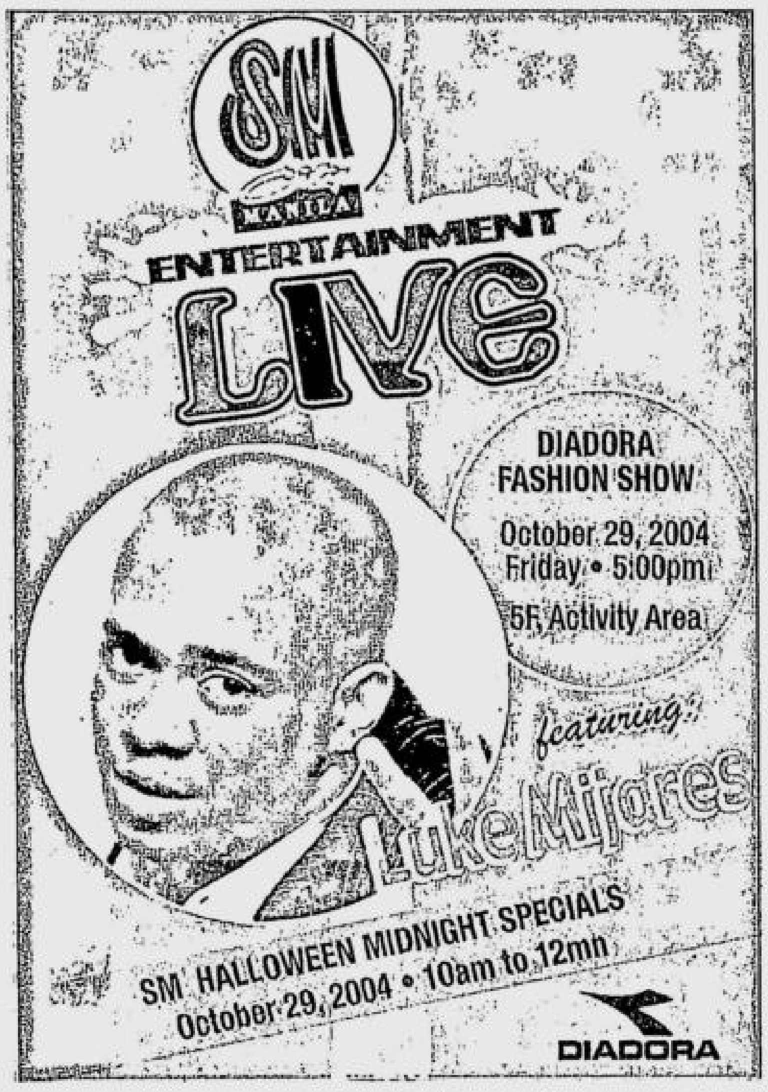

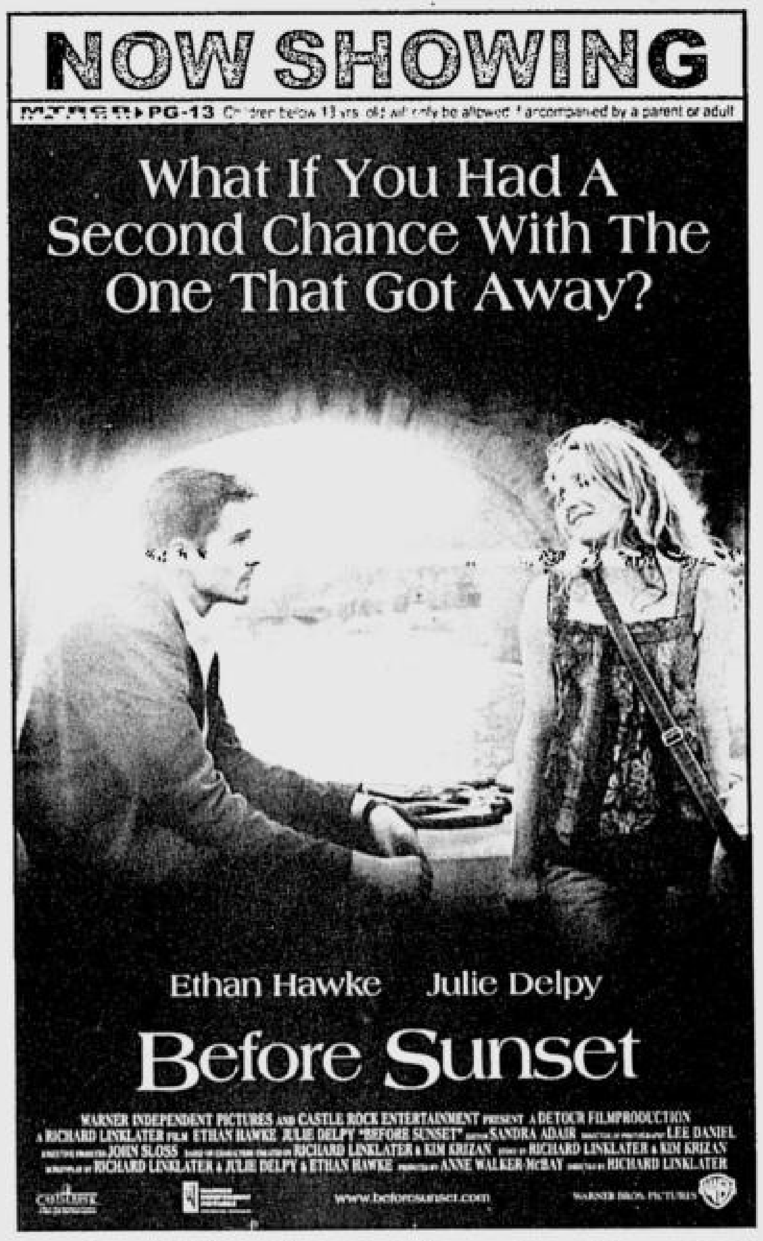

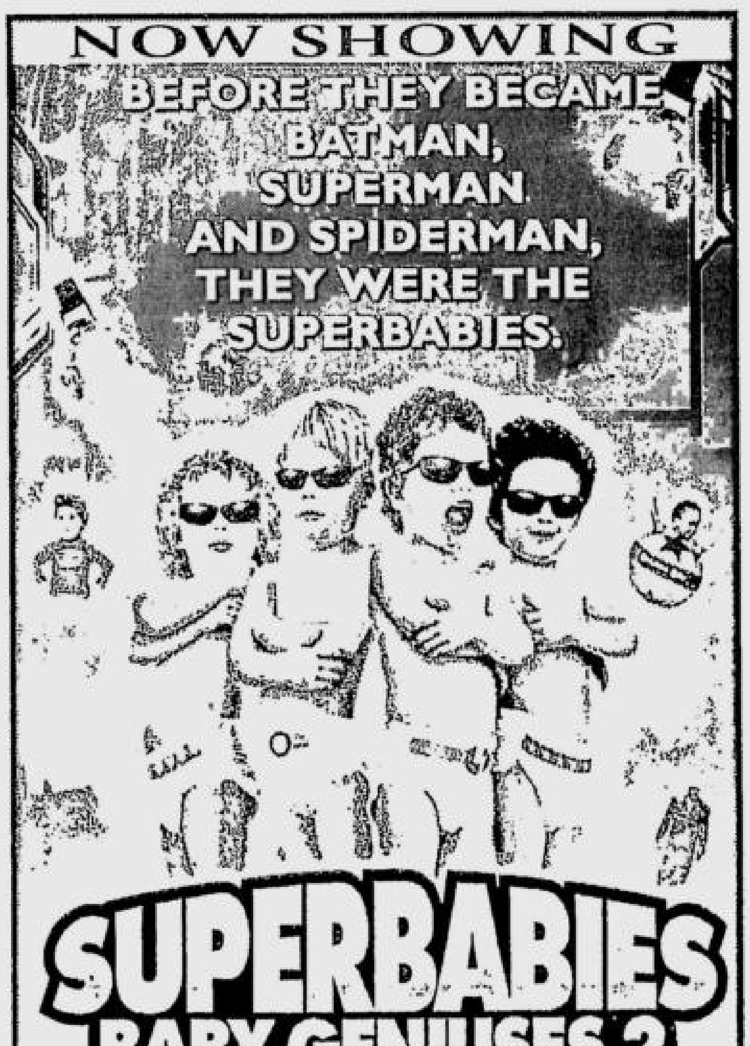
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Jolina's boyfriend a lawyer who knows 'how to make me feel good'

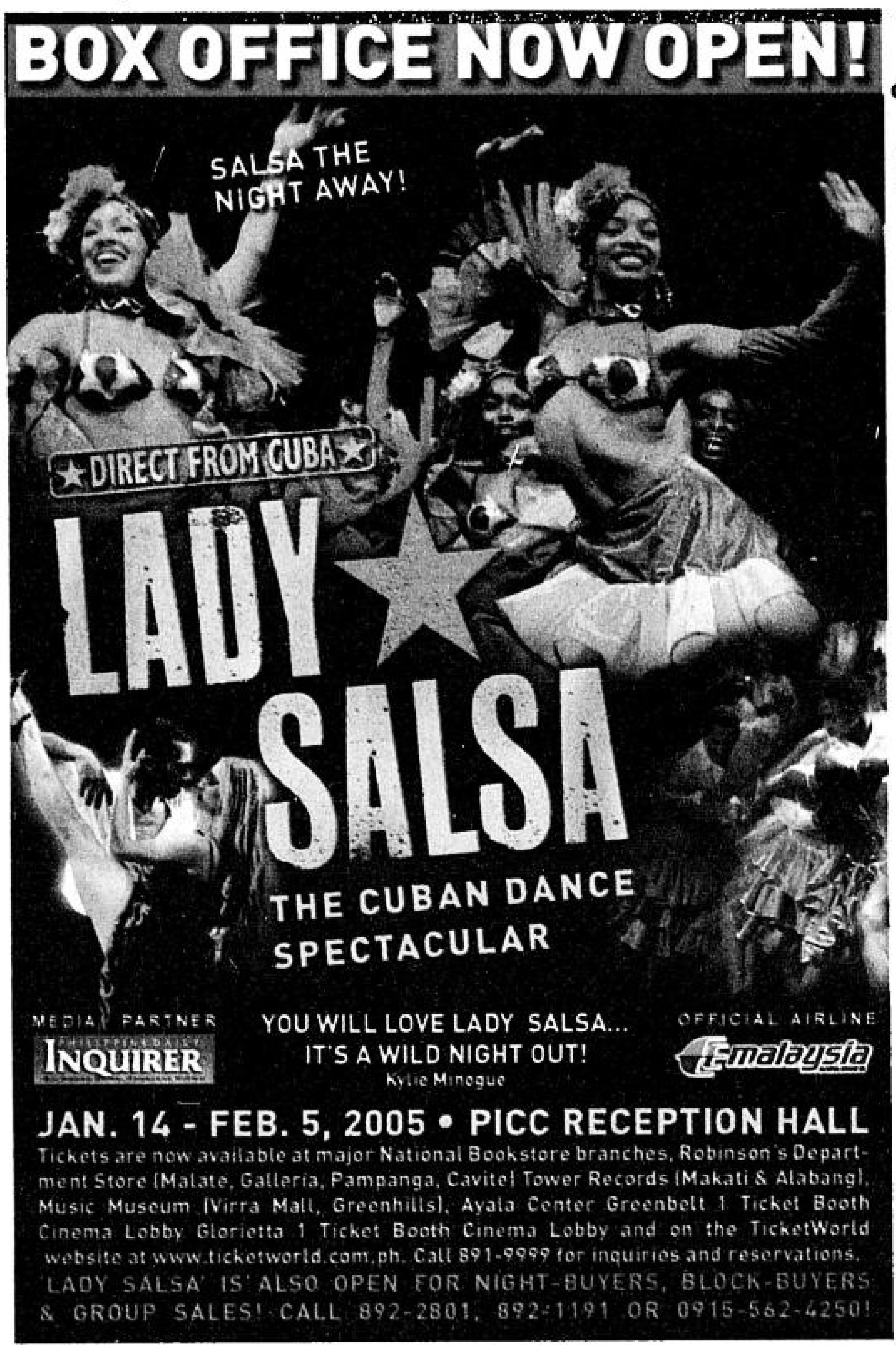
WOMAN IN LOVE. "It's so... wow!" Jolina says of her man's occasional e-mail.

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

JOLINA Magdangal admitted she has found love in a United States-based 30-year-old lawyer who knows "how to make me feel good," but she refused to reveal his identity and how long they have been an item.

"I will introduce him to you when he comes home maybe next year," Jolina, speaking in Filipino, told INQUIRER Entertainment and two other writers during the press lunch for Chan-

JOLINA'S/ A27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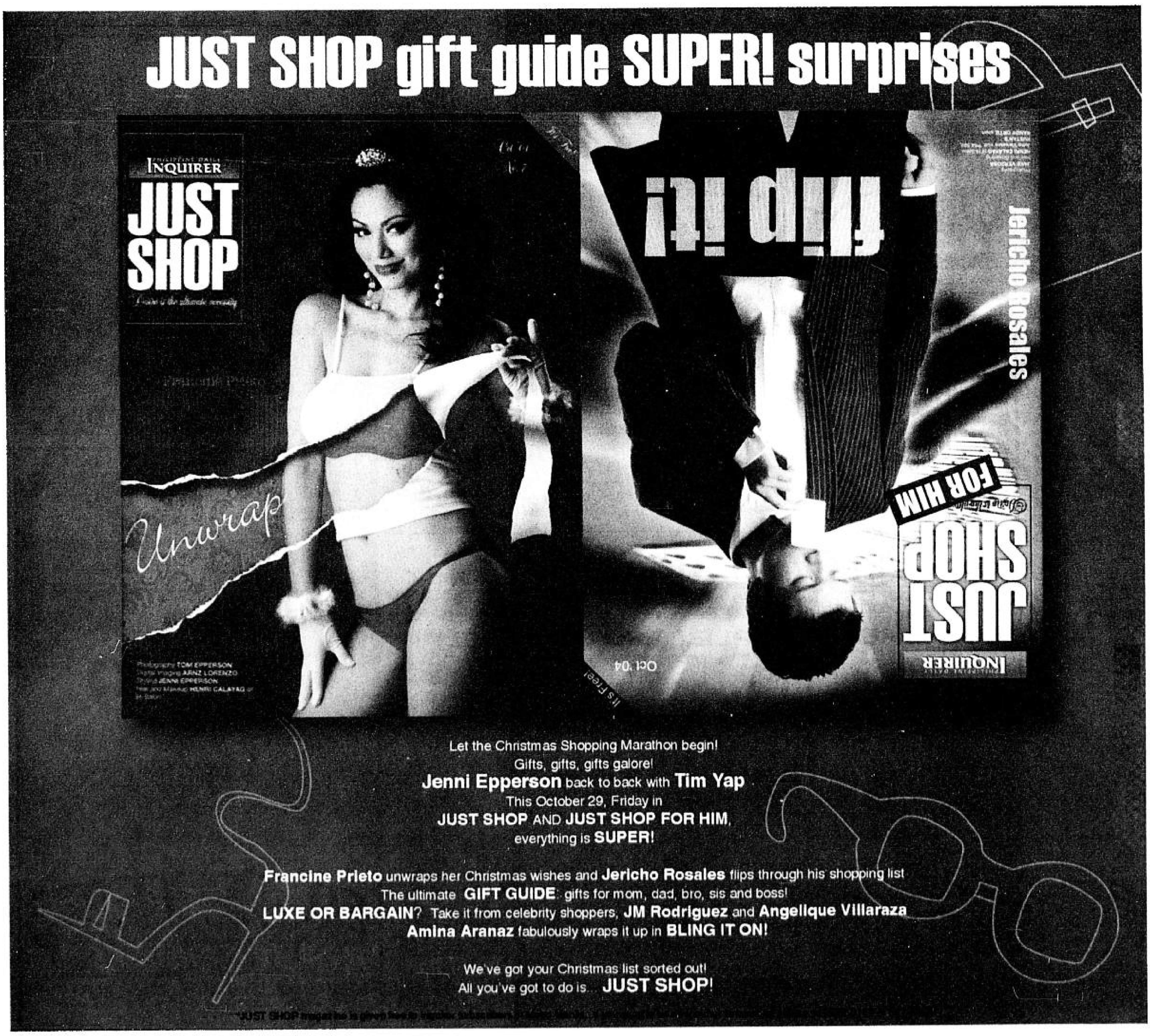
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Call center sector sees P38B in revenues

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE LOCAL call center industry is expected to post $689 million (about P38.17 billion) in revenues in 2004, an increase of 118 percent from $316 million in 2003, according to an industry official.

Benedict C. Hernandez, vice president and general manager of eTelecare International Inc., said yesterday that call center seats were seen to reach the projected 100-percent growth to 40,000.

That would mean the sector has been growing by an average of 128 percent over the last four years from 1,500 seats in 2000.

Hernandez said there was a parallel growth in the number of jobs created from 2,100 jobs in 2000 through 28,000 in 2003 to an estimated 56,000 by the end of this year.

"After 2004, local call centers would have reached a point where it can no longer double its growth every year," he said. "It is estimated that the industry would grow by 20,000 seats a year starting 2005."

Still, Hernandez said call centers were seen to grow to 140,000 seats within five years and create close to 250,000 additional jobs. "This translates further to a projected revenue of $3 billion by the end of 2009."

The eTelecare executive said the success of the firm reflected the overall industry growth, having launched yesterday its third call center worth at least P192 million in investment.

eTelecare's Call Center 3 is located in the Cyber One Building at the Eastwood City Cyber Park in Quezon City and houses some 800 seats.

Alfredo I. Ayala, the company's chair and chief executive, said it was also ready to open in December its fourth call center worth some P300 million. "This would be in Cebu City and it would have 1,100 seats, which would bring our total Philippine seats to 3,600 distributed in four call centers."

Last May, eTelecare acquired for an undisclosed amount Los Angeles-based Phase 2 Solutions,

CALL/B3

Meralco posts 251% jump in 9-month profit

By Abigail L. Ho

THE LOPEZ-LED Manila Electric Co. posted a net income of P2.2 billion in the first nine months of the year, an increase of 251 percent from P640.1 million a year ago.

Revenues likewise increased by 10 percent to P36.5 billion in the first three quarters from P33.1 billion posted in the same period a year ago.

According to its disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, the higher revenue and income were attributed to continued sales expansion, with energy sales growing by 3.8 percent in the third quarter to 6,392 gigawatt-hours (GWh).

The third-quarter sales growth mainly came as a result of a 5.7-percent increase in power sales in September. The months of July and August likewise saw sales go up by 2.9 percent and 3.0 percent, respectively.

Commercial customers continued to fuel Meralco's energy sales, contributing 2,276 GWh to total sales in the July-September period. This was due primarily to the demand generated by newly opened mall Market! Market! at the Bonifacio Global City and the soon-to-open Robinsons Pioneer mall in Mandaluyong.

New malls set to open before year's end, including another SM mall in Batangas and Gateway Place at the Araneta Center, are seen to further boost energy sales from the commercial segment.

In the first nine months of the year, sales to commercial customers jumped 5.2 percent to 6,502 GWh from 6,181 GWh in the same period last year.

Sales to residential customers also grew 1.7 percent to 2,230 GWh in the July-September period, driving up the total sales contribution of this segment to 6,599 GWh in the first three quarters from 6,395 a year ago.

Industrial power sales likewise grew 4.3 percent to 1,852 GWh in the third quarter. The electrical machinery and food segments were the main growth drivers for this customers class.

In the January-September period, electricity sales to industrial customers went up 3 percent to 5,212 GWh from 5,060 GWh in 2003.

Despite the steady sales and income growth, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna said the power distributor was still having a difficult time juggling its finances as it had yet to refinance most of its debts and it still had to deal with many financial obligations, including the Supreme Court-ordered P30-billion refund for nine years' worth of overcharges.

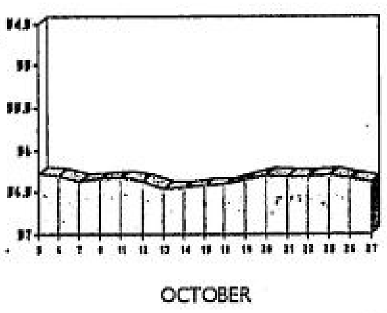
"This is precisely why, despite

MERALCO/B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



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As of 5 p.m., Oct. 276, 2004

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United States	Dollar	0.783331	1.000000	56.3260
Japan	Yen	0.007346	0.009378	0.5282
United Kingdom	Pound	1.437177	1.834700	103.3413
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.100678	0.128526	7.2394
Switzerland	Franc	0.652178	0.832570	46.8953
Canada	Dollar	0.639454	0.816327	45.9804
Singapore	Dollar	0.471347	0.601721	33.8925
Australia	Dollar	0.582879	0.744103	41.9123
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.077855	2.652590	149.4098
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208899	0.266681	15.0211
Brunei	Dollar	0.469933	0.599916	33.7909
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000110	0.0062
Thailand	Baht	0.019101	0.024384	1.3735
UAE	Dirham	0.213279	0.272272	15.3360
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.276600	71.9058
Argentina	Peso	0.263747	0.336700	18.9650
Brazil	Real	0.272652	0.348068	19.6053
Denmark	Kroner	0.134644	0.171886	9.6817
India	Rupee	0.017156	0.021901	1.2336
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.206167	0.263193	14.8246
Mexico	New Peso	0.068130	0.086975	4.8990
New Zealand	Dollar	0.545267	0.696088	39.2079
Norway	Kroner	0.122216	0.156021	8.7880
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Syria	Pound	0.015099	0.019275	1.0857
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.023258	0.029691	1.6724
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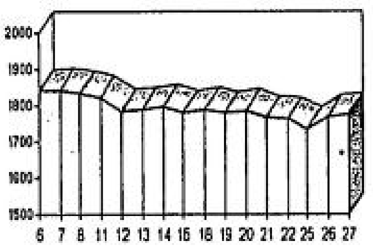
STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.31% higher



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARE prices closed 0.31 percent higher yesterday, supported by a positive third-quarter performance from key blue chip companies, dealers said.

The market continues its technical rebound following recent sharp falls to below the main index's psychological support of 1,750 but investors were quick to cash in gains made early in the session, given concerns about higher crude oil costs.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index gained 5.56 points to 1,774.34 after trading between 1,767.98 and 1,786.61.

Volume was 2.07 billion shares worth P1.526 billion after 1.53 billion shares worth P1.84 billion on Tuesday.

The broader all-shares index rose 12.82 points to 1,110.20.

Losers outnumbered gainers 42 to 32, with 58 stocks unchanged.

"The earnings reports we have so far seen are encouraging. They indicate the continued resilience of Philippine companies despite the expected contractionary effect of higher oil prices on profits and the economy in general," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

He said the market is on a technical rebound following recent declines and will likely build a base in the 1,750-1,800 range in coming sessions.

BPI Securities Inc. said in an advisory that the next two weeks will be crucial as investors try to assess the possible impact of high oil prices on the profitability of companies in the coming quarters.

"Their earnings performance will set the tone for the market in the coming weeks. If third quarter income results are positive, this may fuel interest in the market," BPI Securities said.

Philippine Savings Bank was the most actively traded stock, up P5 at P33. The bulk of shares sold were traded in a cross transaction.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone gained P15 to P1,375.

Banco de Oro rose 75 centavos to P19 after reporting a 41-percent rise in its net profit in the nine months to September.

Ayala Land Inc. however closed flat at P7 after last-minute profit-taking erased earlier gains on its results.

San Miguel Corp. saw its "B" shares, available to foreign investors, rise P1 to P71.50 while its "A" shares gained 50 centavos to P56.50. *AFP*

Debt service to eat up 36% of '05 budget

THE NATIONAL government's interest payments will eat up an historic high of 36 percent of its total budget next year due to its assumption of National Power Corp.'s debts, thus making new tax measures imperative.

This was the warning aired by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas executive director for investor relations Cora Guidote yesterday, estimating that the government would have to spend P323.8 billion for interest payments in 2005, inclusive of some P36 billion for Napocor.

This will jack up interest payments as a ratio of the 2005 reenacted budget to 36 percent from only 28.1 percent in 2003 and about 33.3 percent by end-2004.

The expenditure would further swell, Guidote said, if the peso were to depreciate as many market players were expecting by 2005.

If the local currency were to depreciate by 3 percent, she said interest payments would amount to P328.7 billion or 36.4 percent of the budget.

Assuming a further depreciation of 5 percent and 10 percent, she said the government's interest payments next year would likely hit P331.9 billion and P340 billion, respectively, equivalent to 36.6 percent and 37.1 percent of the budget.

Under such a scenario, she said the major consequence would be a further reduction in the government's capital outlays since this

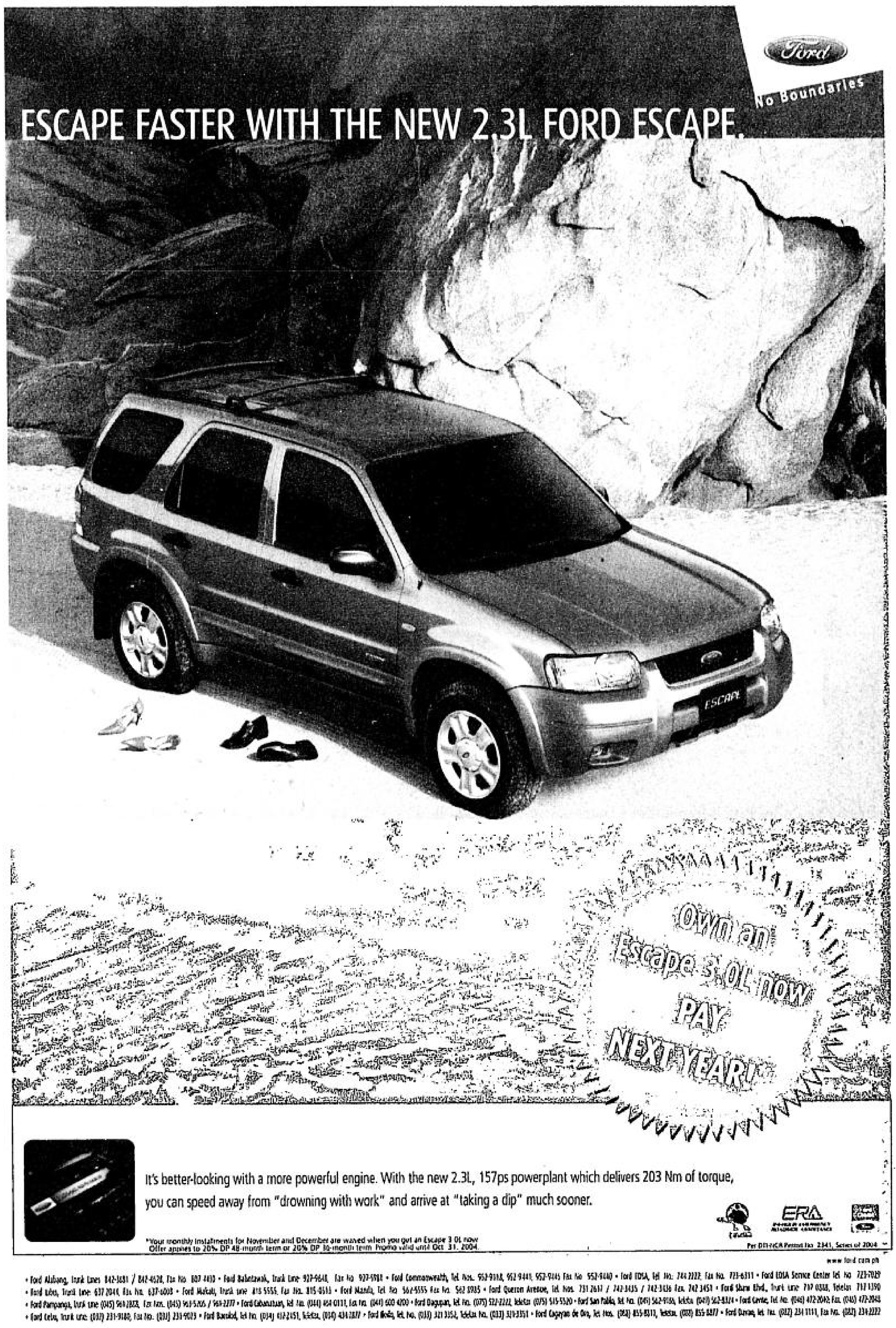
DEBT/B2

INTEREST RATES

October 27, 2004
MART 1 Rates

Benchmark Interest Rates	MART 1 27-Oct-04 (%)	MART 1 26-Oct-04 (%)
1 Month	8.1233	8.1125
3 Months	8.2714	8.2904
6 Months	9.2133	9.205
1 Year	9.9982	10.0481
2 Years	10.84	10.865
3 Years	11.4767	11.4946
4 Years	12.0017	11.9857
5 Years	12.5288	12.4633
7 Years	13.1384	13.1217
10 Years	13.5571	13.5
20 Years	13.85	13.8483
25 Years	14.1417	14.1286

SOURCE: MART/BLOOMBERG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World Bank unit buys 20% stake in RP insurance firm

By Doris C. Dumlao

INTERNATIONAL Finance Corp., the World Bank's private investment arm, has ventured into the Philippine insurance sector for the first time with the acquisition of a 20-percent stake in Paramount Life & General Insurance Corp.

The buy-in is seen to catapult PLGIC into an industry catalyst, by continuing to be a "consolidator" that seizes opportunities in the current global downturn to acquire the local operations of foreign players retreating from the Philippine market as well as other domestic companies, PLGIC president and majority stockholder Patrick Go said in a press briefing yesterday.

IFC will be initially investing $1.5 million in PLGIC, which had an annual sales turnover of about half a billion pesos and ranks 15 out of 120 Philippine insurers.

"The IFC partnership will provide critical support for our company to distinguish itself and to further strengthen our financial resources to continue its part of combined internal and external growth," Go said.

Go said that with the financial muscle from IFC, PLGIC hoped to become among the country's top 10 leading insurers over the medium term.

But he noted that industry ranking was not the company's main concern. Instead, he said the foremost aim was to be the lowest cost provider of insurance products in the country.

IFC executive vice president Peter Woicke, who was in Manila for the signing, said the company picked PLGIC to invest in because it was a "well managed" domestic insurance company.

"Through this investment, IFC will help Paramount expand and fortify its business operations as well as allow it to finance strategic acquisitions," Woicke said.

"It will support the government's efforts to promote healthy industry consolidation to the benefit of consumers," he said.

In 2001, PLGIC acquired the Philippine operations of Union Insurance Society of Canton Ltd. from AXA of France, strengthening its position in the local industry.

Aside from the Go family, which owns 60 percent of PGLIC, other equity partners are the Chu family of Cebu and the Tahija family of Indonesia.

PGLIC, now with a net worth of P300 million and assets of more than P1 billion, was founded in 1950 by patriarch Daniel Go. It has 27 branch offices across the country.

The insurer focuses its business principally on personal lines and on small and medium enterprises outside the country's major urban centers.

For its part, IFC has been promoting private sector development in the Philippines for more than 40 years. In its fiscal year that ended in June, it has committed $90 million in loans and equity to five investments here.

The WB's investment arm has invested in other areas of the Philippine financial sector.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 27, 2004)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.25	19	18	19	7,649,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	46	46.5	45.5	46	1,494,900
China Banking Corp.	526	526	520	520	1,500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43.5	43.5	43.5	43.5	33,400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	100,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	27.5	147,200
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	1,980
Philippine National Bank	21.5	22	21.5	21.75	30,300
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	33	28.5	33	18,370,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	100
Security Bank Corp.	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	15,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	22.5	22.5	22.5	22.5	16,700
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Bankard Inc.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
First Abacus Financial	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.7	80,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	178	179	178	179	250
Manulife Financial Corp.	2465	2465	2465	2465	1,000
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	17,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1655	1655	1655	1655	650
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	21	21	21	21	51,800
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.34	1.38	1.3	1.32	23,153,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	1035	1040	1035	1040	28,490
Ipeople Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	2,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.034	0.036	0.033	0.035	7,100,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	80,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.42	2.44	3,258,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.41	0.42	0.4	0.41	170,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1375	1395	1375	1375	124,370
Ivantage Corp.	0.71	0.71	0.7	0.7	1,960,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	165,300,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	28,800
Manila Electric Co. B	23.75	23.75	23.25	23.25	296,200
Petron Corp.	2.95	3.05	2.95	3	5,060,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	140,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	552,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	5	5	5	5	188,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	10,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	70,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	400,000
Union Cement Corp.	2.28	2.3	2.28	2.28	196,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	97,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	29	29	29	29	5,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.5	80,600
RFM Corp.	0.72	0.75	0.72	0.75	270,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,390,000
San Miguel Corp. A	56.5	57	56.5	56.5	149,400
San Miguel Corp. B	71	71.5	71	71.5	647,500
Universal Robina Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	25,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.29	1,720,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	90,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	1,000,000
Ayala Corp.	6.3	6.4	6.3	6.3	12,252,000
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	70,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.45	3.45	3.4	3.4	7,031,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.026	0.024	0.024	1,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	1.3	1.36	1.3	1.36	19,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	150,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	14,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.82	0.82	0.82	0.82	50,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	15.25	15.25	15	15	27,500
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.54	0.54	6,620,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,440,000
Crown Equities, Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	300,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.25	3.25	3.15	3.15	7,481,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	20,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	4.6	4.65	4.45	4.5	321,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	26.5	26.5	26.5	26.5	147,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.065	0.065	0.065	0.065	2,300,000
Ionics Inc.	1.6	1.62	1.6	1.62	60,000
J.G. Summit Holdings, Inc.	2	2	1.98	1.98	81,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	4,000,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.24	1.24	1.18	1.2	2,855,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	38,720,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.155	0.155	510,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	5,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	30,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	9	9	9	9	100,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	100,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,000,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	60,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.64	1,700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.78	0.8	0.77	0.77	720,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.6	0.6	400,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	12,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.32	0.35	0.32	0.34	5,760,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	21.25	21.25	21.25	21.25	294,300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series F	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	4,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	9,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	46,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,600
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	10,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7	7.3	7	7	13,422,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	670,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	9,450,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	20,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.125	0.125	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	9,860,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Filinvest Land, Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.08	5,358,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	420,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.48	2,000,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	2.1	2.1	2.08	2.08	65,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	800,000
SM Development Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.7	7.4	7.7	10,359,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0085	0.011	0.0085	0.011	1,098,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	3.6	3.75	3.6	3.7	46,000
Benguet Corp. A	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	220,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	80,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.015	0.016	106,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	38,700,000
Omico Corp.	0.0048	0.005	0.0048	0.0048	289,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	20,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	1,450,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	100,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	2,900,000
Interport Res.	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	43,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.6	2.65	22,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.033	0.033	0.033	0.033	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	20,000

Meralco posts . . .

From page B1

our net income which was achieved through prudent financial management, our financial obligations continue to put a financial strain on our overall fiscal situation," he said in a statement.

He said the company still had to shell out about P1.3 billion in the remaining two months of the year to cover customer refunds. Next year, another P3.5 billion would have to be spent for the same purpose.

The fourth and last phase of its refund scheme will cost the company P18.6 billion. The Energy Regulatory Commission has yet to approve the firm's proposal on how to go about the refund process for customers falling under this phase.

Debt service . . .

From page B1

was the only expenditure item it could spare—unless local government units were made to suffer the brunt instead.

From 1997 to 2003, there has been a dramatic decline in the government's capital expenditures as a share of budget from 16.8 percent to 9.4 percent. On the contrary, interest payments had ballooned from 16.6 percent to 28 percent.

This made the Philippines a laggard in terms of infrastructure investments across the region, as Indonesia, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand and China have spent more for capital outlays.

Based on a reenacted budget, the government will spend another P72.8 billion in capital outlays next year or only 8.2 percent of its budget. In 2003, it spent P80.2 billion on this item.

As such, Guidote said the passage of new tax measures was urgent, given the incremental P36 billion in expenditure that would be introduced next year with the government's assumption of Napocor's debts.

While Napocor's principal debts would be paid using proceeds from its privatization, she said the government would still have to raise funds for next year's interest payments.

She also said the build-up in the country's gross international reserves should not rely on foreign borrowings, but on investments.

"So far it's been good enough, with the economy growing faster than expected. However, we're being derailed by the perception of a fiscal crisis," she said.

The new tax measures that the government is pushing for enactment in Congress this year are the indexation of excise taxes on beer and cigarettes, the rationalization of fiscal incentives, a general tax amnesty and a lateral attrition program. *Doris C. Dumlao*

Call . . .

From page B1

which operates some 2,400 seats in seven call centers in the United States.

"With the acquisition, we became the biggest Asia-based call center firm in terms of revenue," Ayala said. "We expect to post $125 million in total revenue this year."

Ayala said this was a big improvement from the $75 million in combined revenues of eTelecare and Phase 2 recorded in 2003.

He said the firm also expected to expand it workforce from 4,000 this year to 15,000 within five years.

eTelecare yesterday presented to Trade Secretary Cesar V. Purisima a replica of the "Best Outsourcer" trophy, which the company won for the fourth straight year in the International Call Center Management Convention and Exhibition in Chicago.

"[This trend shows that] within six years, revenues of information technology-enabled businesses could approximate that of semiconductors," Purisima said.

He said semiconductor exports were expected to post $19 billion or 45 percent of the country's total exports in 2004.

IT-enabled businesses include call centers, back office services, software development, engineering and design, animation, and medical transcription.

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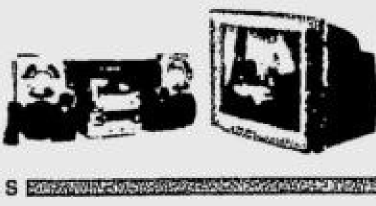

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Gov't to exclude GFI deposits in computation of public debt

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance is considering excluding the amount of deposits in government financial institutions from the computation of the country's public sector debt, which has been reportedly bloated because of calculation errors.

The DOF is recomputing the country's public sector debt after the International Monetary Fund proposed some adjustments in the government's accounting system. In the recent visit of IMF representatives to the Philippines, the multilateral agency suggested that the government exclude some items in the computation of its debt, and observe accounting systems practiced in other countries.

A finance official said the IMF proposed the exclusion of deposits in GFIs from the computation of debt because the nature of bank deposits was different from borrowings. "We are studying that possibility because anyway, why do we have to consider the money deposited by people in government banks as government debt," the finance official said.

Aside from considering the exclusion from debt computation the deposits in GFIs such as Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines, the DOF is also removing intra-government borrowings from the recomputation of the debt figure.

This means that the new debt figure that will result from the recomputation will no longer include items like borrowings of the national government from government-owned and -controlled corporations, or vice versa.

Under the old accounting method, borrowings of the national government from GOCCs, such as through bond issues, were counted as part of the consolidated public sector debt. Also, borrowings by government agencies or state-owned firms from the national government were considered part of the debt.

With the exclusion of intra-government borrowings from the debt computation, the public sector debt is estimated to be reduced by about a trillion pesos. The government earlier reported that the consolidated public sector debt as of end-2003, under the old accounting system, stood at P5.9 trillion.

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CAPITAL MARKET DEVELOPMENT
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael B. Buenaventura, at the Asian Capital Markets Forum of The Asset Magazine, says the country continues to make progress in its efforts to develop the capital market, but urges for an accelerated implementation of financial sector reforms to achieve faster economic growth. He said domestic saving rate in the Philippines in 2003 was only 20 percent of GDP, lower than Singapore's 46.7 percent, Malaysia's 42.9 percent, Thailand's 33.1 percent, Hong Kong's 31.6 percent and Indonesia's 21.5 percent. Also present at the forum were Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Fe B. Barin and representatives from the financial and corporate sectors.

British bank launches credit card

By Doris C. Dumlao

UK-BASED Standard Chartered Bank sees its credit card base expanding by 30-40 percent within the next three months with the launch of its D3 visa credit card, the first "three-dimensional" plastic in the Philippines.

In a press briefing yesterday, SCB general manager for credit cards and personal loans Sanjay Aggarwal said the D3 card would help the British bank outpace the 10-percent projected annual growth of credit card outstanding balances in the country over the next two to three years.

He said three-dimensional credit cards had been successfully introduced in South Korea by other banks but it was the first time SCB was adopting the concept, choosing the Philippines as the very first market.

Leveraging on its strength as a global bank, SCB expects its credit card volume to grow by 15-20 percent, targeting consumers with annual earnings of at least P120,000.

Although SCB entered the local credit card business quite late, starting only in 1997 while others took off a decade ago, Aggarwal noted the bank now ranked among the top five credit card issuers in the country in terms of outstanding balances.

Aggarwal said its target market in the Philippines—those aged 21 and above and belonging to the A, B and C income brackets—was rapidly growing and benefiting the credit card business.

To date, credit card penetration in the Philippines is estimated at only 30-40 percent of the population.

The D3 features a three-dimensional design and likewise offers unique benefits to cardholders until Jan. 31, 2005, such as:

- a 1-percent cash rebate for all retail purchases;
- option to convert any retail purchase into easy installment terms with zero interest for three months;
- a free three-month trial period, and
- no annual fee or processing fee, only a P100 membership fee starting the fourth month.

The D3 card also allows cardholders to determine their due dates—whether on the 15th, 18th or the 29th.

14 RP firms joining China exposition

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FOURTEEN local firms are taking a crack at the 1.3-billion Chinese market through the China-Association of Southeast Asian Nations Expo to be held Nov. 3-6 in Nanning City, capital of the southern province of Guangxi.

Trade Undersecretary Thomas G. Aquino is leading a concurrent business mission that would attend the China-Asean Business and Investment Summit.

Some 70 delegates of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry and businessmen from Region 11 in Southern Mindanao are joining the event.

The Philippine exhibit will feature an integrated country presentation of trade, industry and tourism with an interactive display of priority products and services.

The 14 companies include Oceanic Exports (Manila) Inc., AAMC Foods Corp., El Coco Manufacturing Inc., Mabuhay 2000, Superstar Coconut, Camel Appliances Manufacturing Corp., Euromed Laboratories Inc., Philippine Coco Forest, Viviendo Philippines Inc., Club Panoly Resort, Morning Star Travel and Tours Inc., DOT Travel Service Philippines Inc., Jeron Travel and Tours and Philippine Airlines.

The Department of Trade and Industry said the CAExpo was meant to promote the establishment of the China-Ascan Free Trade Area "with the principle of mutual benefits and economic cooperation both within the Cafta and with the rest of the world."

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State assets eyed as collateral for loans

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT intends to use state assets as collateral to raise P10 billion in funds that will be used to help finance the proposed Philippine Infrastructure Corp. (PIC).

The Department of Finance said the government owned a lot of assets, including real estate and shares of stocks, which could be used as collateral to back P10 billion in loans from commercial sources.

The PIC, which will be tasked to develop the country's infrastructure support, needs a total of P20 billion to start its operations.

The PIC, an attached agency of the National Development Co., will act as a proponent of infrastructure projects. Once completed, the projects will be sold to private investors.

"The PIC will serve as the proponent of these projects so that getting them (the projects) off the ground will be quicker," said Finance Undersecretary Eric Recto.

The idea is for private-sector investors to eventually take charge of the infrastructure projects, he said.

Recto explained that the government would raise P10 billion through asset-based financing to prevent putting at risk the government's financial health. Under the scheme, government funds will not be tapped in case of loan default because credit providers will simply have to take over the assets used as collateral.

Economist Solita Monsod, a professor at the University of the Philippines and former chief of the National Economic and Development Authority, earlier warned that the PIC could only worsen the country's fiscal problem because of the huge financing needed for its operations.

She also said that some of the agenda of the government's Medium-Term Philippine Economic Development Plan, which included the establishment of the PIC, were not helpful in averting a full-blown fiscal crisis.

The government's economic team, for its part, said the establishment of the PIC was a solution to the problem on the country's poor infrastructure, which was cited as a major drag to efforts to attract investments into the country.

Rotary, Le Club FCC to meet

THE ROTARY Club of Manila and Le Club-French Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines will hold their second joint general membership and networking luncheon today at Dusit Hotel Nikko, Makati City.

The event, to be graced by French Ambassador Renée Veyret, will be a festive event of food, wine and music.

Alejandro L. Yap Jr., RCM president, said the meeting aimed to explore more avenues of cooperation between the two groups.

Le Club FCC is headed by Asiatype chair Philippe Gauthier.

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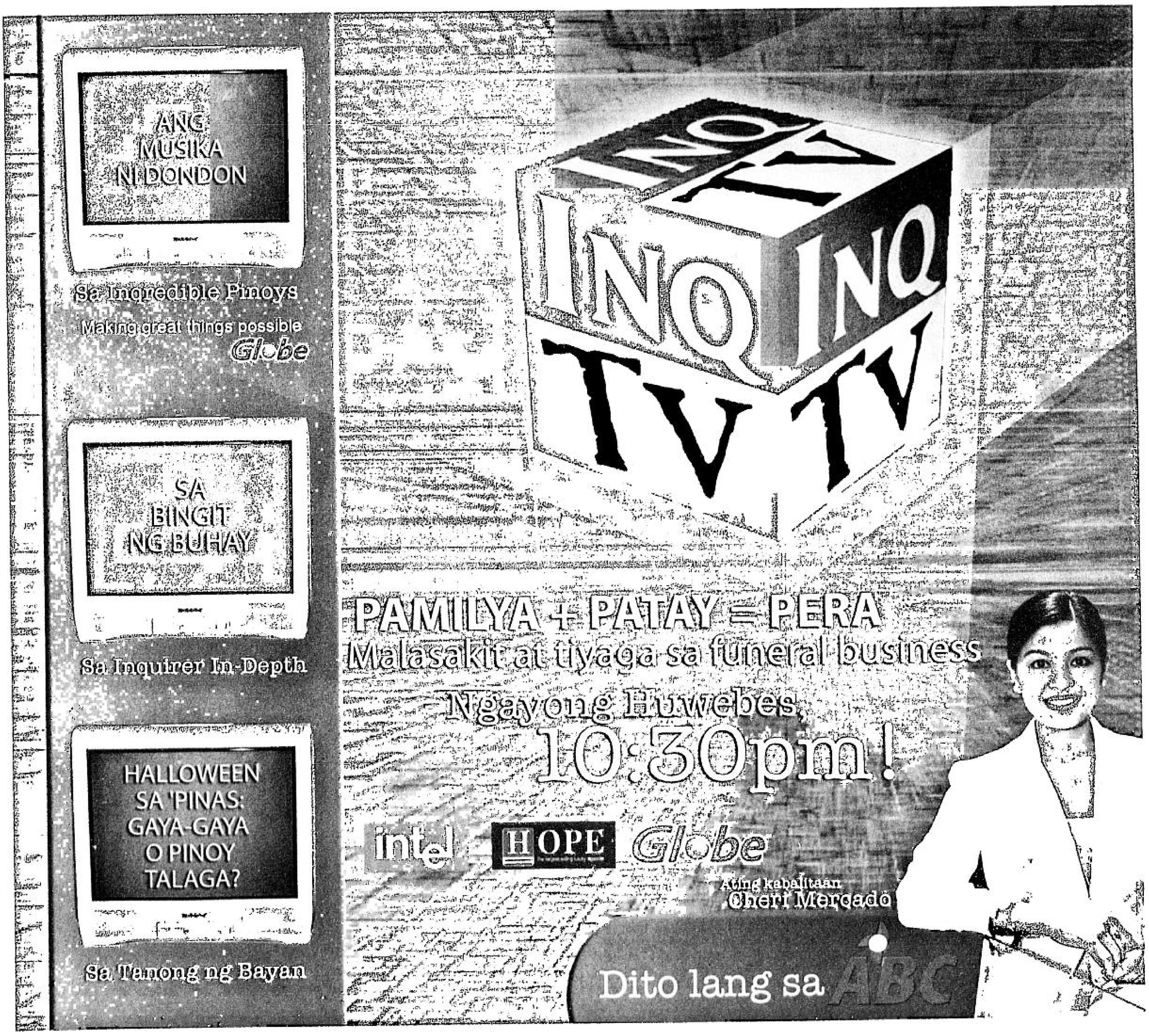


THE MANOBOS are the prime movers in the reforestation project.

PNOC-EDC returns the favor to Mother Nature

By Abigail L. Ho

CORPORATE CITIZEN

IT'S a simple law of nature. When you take, you should also give back. When nature is your ally, giving you your bread and butter, the least you could do is give something in return.

And this exactly is what Philippine National Oil Co.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) has been doing since 1992 through the Macadac Reforestation Project.

While operating the Mindanao Geothermal Production Field (MGPF) at Mt. Apo, the energy development firm embarked on the reforestation project to give something back to Mother Nature, as well as to assure its host community that it meant to take care of the environment in which it was operating.

In 1983, a forest fire left large parts of the Mt. Apo area denuded and wanting of new trees. This then prompted PNOC-EDC to implement a multimillion-peso reforestation project, starting in the vicinity of Lake Macadac, one of the three lakes near Mt. Apo.

Expanding project

The reforestation efforts then extended to adjacent areas, including those around Lake Jordan, the Saguing Area in Makilala, North Cotabato, and Baroring in Davao del Sur.

These areas became collectively known as the Macadac Reforestation Project, which involved a total land area of 545 hectares and for which PNOC-EDC had spent more than P46 million as of end-January.

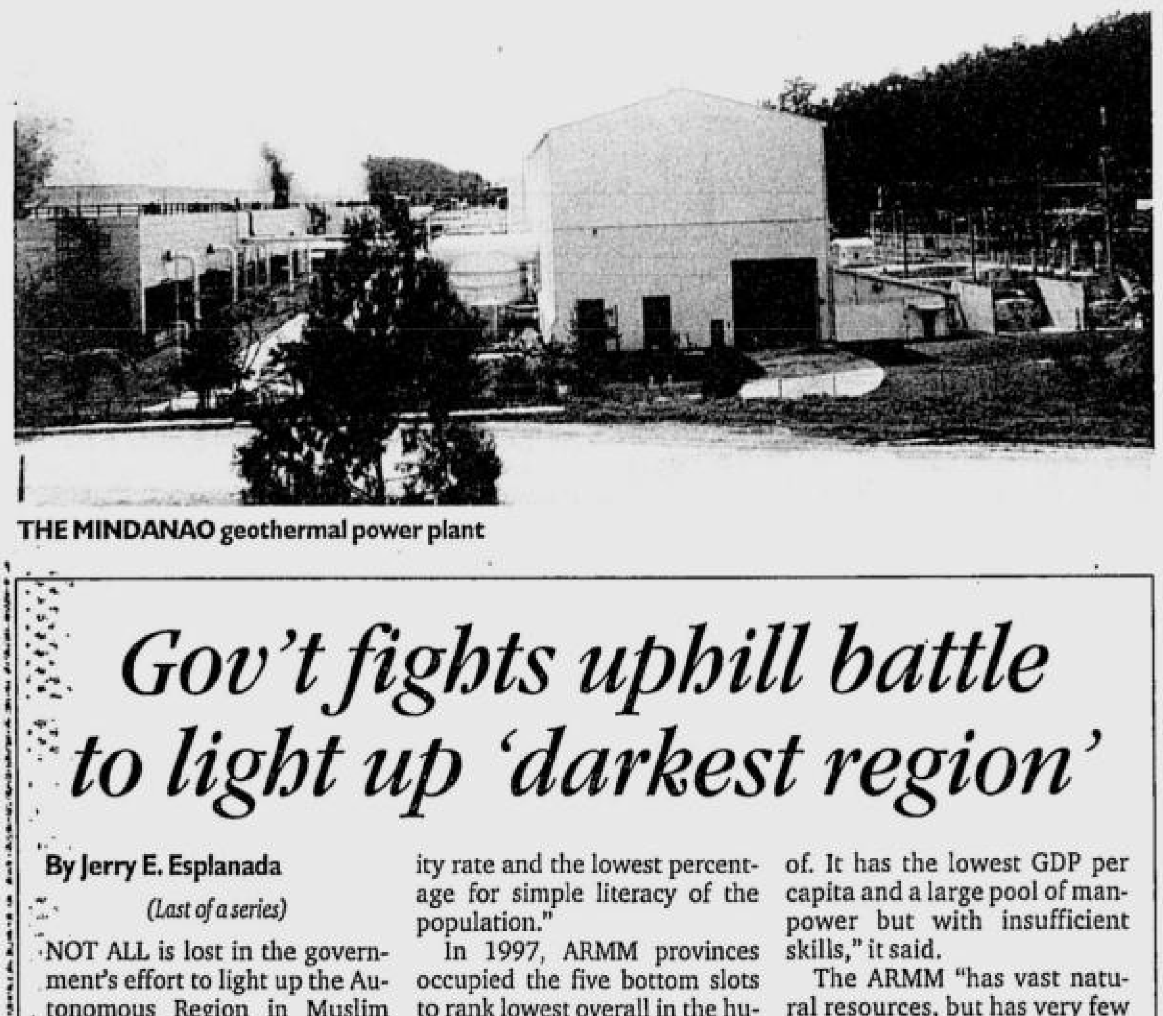
This, PNOC-EDC said, was also the "highest" reforestation effort in the country, being done in an area that was 2,200 meters above sea level.

Apart from the Macadac area, PNOC-EDC has also started reforesting portions of the area around Lake Venado, upon the request of the provincial government there as well as of indigenous groups in Mt. Apo.

So far, 30 hectares of land have already been reforested, with another 30 hectares of land to be covered before the end of the year.

Another reforestation project, this time involving 20 hectares of land, is being implemented in Bansalan and Sta. Cruz, both in Davao del Sur.

Trees used in the reforestation efforts, PNOC-EDC was proud to say, were nothing but species indigenous to Mt. Apo and not hybrids or fast growing varieties that were usually used in reforestation projects.



THE MINDANAO geothermal power plant

Mobilizing indigenous people

But since geothermal steam field and power plant operations, not reforestation, were the core competencies of the PNOC-EDC staff, MGPF operations superintendent Elmo Valentino Butardo said the natives in these areas were tapped to ensure that the restored forests in the area would stay lush and green.

"We sought the help of the tribal people and the farmers. We're not experts and we also don't have the manpower," he said. "They're also the ones taking care of the reforested areas."

To ensure that the reforested areas are free from *kaingeros* and illegal loggers, PNOC-EDC is maintaining an extension officer from its environmental management division as well as eight forest guards, most of whom are locals who used to be *kaingeros* themselves.

To date, most of the trees planted under PNOC-EDC's reforestation projects are now 10-15 feet tall. They have started to form a lush forest canopy that is ideal as a natural habitat for the country's national bird—the Philippine Eagle.

More than just a tree

When, in 1998, various species of birds started building their nests in trees within the PNOC-EDC's Mt. Apo reforested areas, the site became a potential breeding ground for birds, even those as rare as the Philippine Eagle.

The Philippine Eagle Foundation, in fact, chose the Mt. Apo geothermal reservation as the experimental release site for Kabayan, the first eagle to be bred in captivity.

Kabayan has now found a home within the contiguous forest cover of the Mt. Apo reservation area, flying freely without fear of being shot down by hunters.

Kabayan's home

The eagle is sometimes seen resting on one of the branches of trees surrounding the geothermal site. Though not close enough to touch, one can enjoy a good enough view of the majestic bird.

If is often seen flying around the forest reservation, hovering above trees that are now showing signs of becoming towering giants in a few more years.

Indeed, as nature has given PNOC-EDC the gift of helping propel the country to being the second biggest geothermal energy producer in the world, the state corporation has committed to give something back to its benefactor.

And the trees at the Mt. Apo site will, for years, serve as testaments to this commitment.

Gov't fights uphill battle to light up 'darkest region'

By Jerry E. Esplanada

(Last of a series)

SPECIAL REPORT

NOT ALL is lost in the government's effort to light up the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

"We're looking at a homegrown solution to the (ARMM's power) problem, particularly Lanao del Sur," said Edith Bueno, head of the National Electrification Administration.

"(The debt of the Lanao del Sur Electric Cooperative) to Napocor is getting bigger while its systems losses are getting higher. We'll soon come up with a policy."

Bueno said that poverty is another factor being considered by the NEA as the agency tries to look for solutions to the problems in the ARMM.

Poverty incidence

"We are aware that a majority of ARMM residents are among the country's poorest of the poor," Bueno said.

A report from the House of Representatives affirmed the NEA's assessment.

"ARMM residents today are more impoverished than they were six years ago," the House report said. "Compared to the whole of Mindanao, ARMM still registers the highest incidence of poor families and malnutrition, maternal and child mortality rate and the lowest percentage for simple literacy of the population."

In 1997, ARMM provinces occupied the five bottom slots to rank lowest overall in the human development index of the United Nations Development Program.

"Poverty in the ARMM is a rural phenomenon, contributing 58.3 percent to total poverty in (Mindanao)," said the House report. "Poverty incidence in the ARMM increased, reaching 68.8 percent in 2000 despite a decreasing trend in Mindanao."

The region also has the "highest percentage of the population without access to safe water, toilet facilities and housing."

Lack of economic support

The same report also revealed that only a little over 40 percent of national roads in the ARMM were paved, while telephone density stood at a very low 0.40 percent.

"There is also a severe lack of economic support facilities like farm-to-market roads, post-harvest and irrigation facilities," the report said.

"While the region is strategically located for trade and commerce like its other potentials, this remains largely untapped. The ARMM has no manufacturing sector to speak of. It has the lowest GDP per capita and a large pool of manpower but with insufficient skills," it said.

The ARMM "has vast natural resources, but has very few industries, limited economic activities and little investments."

Its private sector share in the total number of establishments in the entire Mindanao area was limited to a very low 4.4 percent.

Budget allocation

Ironically, ARMM is supposedly autonomous, but it is still heavily dependent on budgetary allocations from the national government.

For the period 1992-2002, ARMM "received comparatively less than most other regions in terms of regional allocation. In 2002, it had the lowest allocation at P11.1 billion."

Last year, its P12.1-billion allocation was the third lowest, next only to CAR's P12 billion and Caraga's P11 billion.

However, in terms of per capita allocation, ARMM received more (P4,853) compared to Metro Manila (P3,904) in 2001 and 2002.

Between 1996 and 2000, ARRM's collections from revenue and other taxes amounted to only P387.5 million, about 2 percent of P18.65 billion, its total budget for the five-year period.

Corn imports seen going down

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY'S corn and corn substitute imports are expected to decline by about 50 percent this year, as livestock raisers cut back on production resulting in lower demand for animal feeds.

Also, the country is expected to register a bumper corn harvest by the end of the year.

According to the Philippine Association of Feed Millers Inc. (Pafmi), corn and corn substitutes imports as of October reached only 576,320 metric tons, down by almost 50 percent from 1.149 million metric tons acquired in the same period last year.

According to Pafmi vice president Ric Pinca, the slide in the importation of corn and corn substitutes (mainly wheat) this year could be due to the cut in the production of backyard hog raisers.

"Because of the high cost of feed, backyard raisers stopped producing or cut down on production," he said.

He said this resulted in a 20- to 25-percent drop in the feed millers sales volume.

The Department of Agriculture said 77 percent of the country's hog stock was coming from backyard raisers. It added that 20 percent of these backyard raisers decided not to stock up this year.

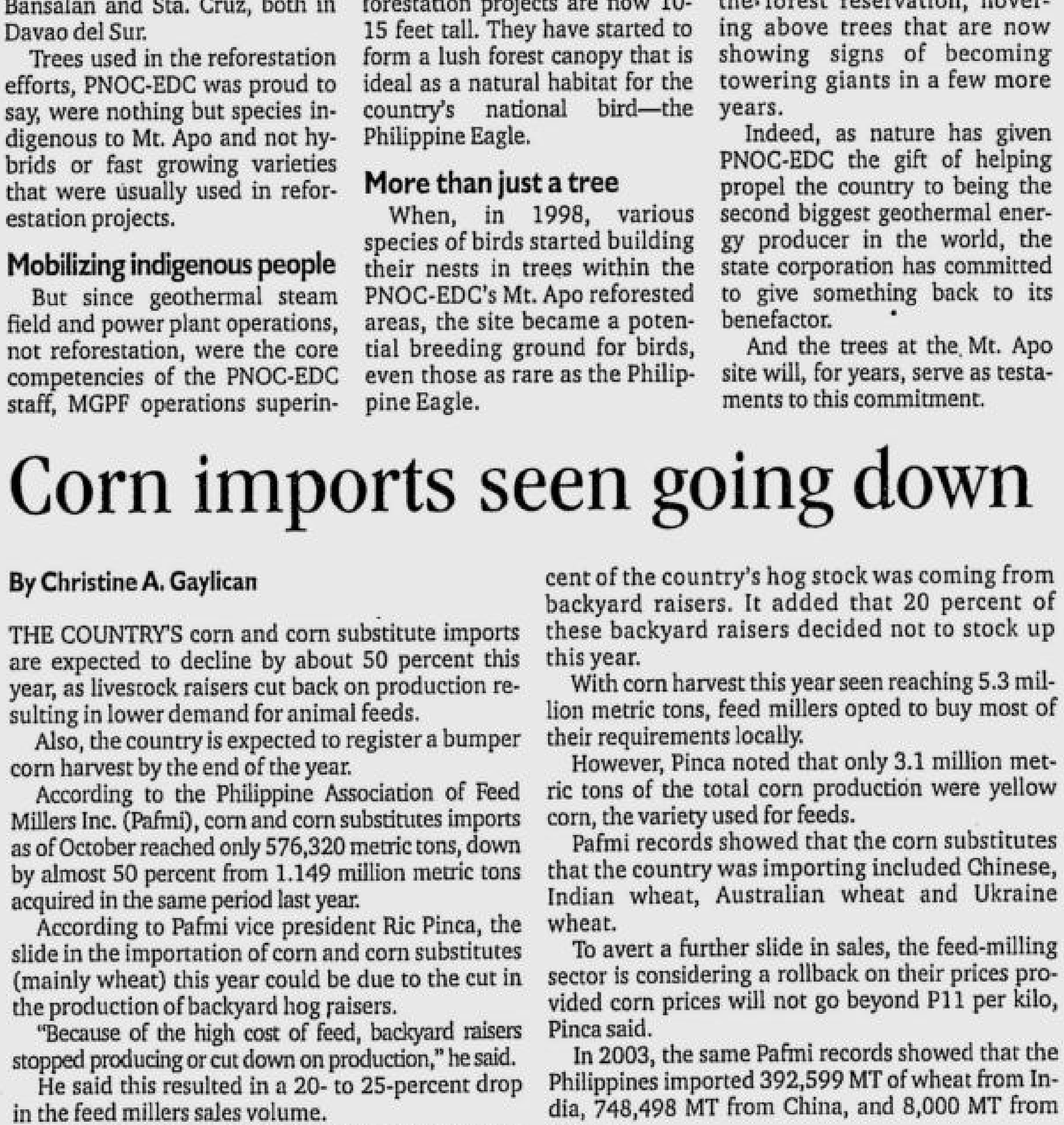
With corn harvest this year seen reaching 5.3 million metric tons, feed millers opted to buy most of their requirements locally.

However, Pinca noted that only 3.1 million metric tons of the total corn production were yellow corn, the variety used for feeds.

Pafmi records showed that the corn substitutes that the country was importing included Chinese, Indian wheat, Australian wheat and Ukraine wheat.

To avert a further slide in sales, the feed-milling sector is considering a rollback on their prices provided corn prices will not go beyond P11 per kilo, Pinca said.

In 2003, the same Pafmi records showed that the Philippines imported 392,599 MT of wheat from India, 748,498 MT from China, and 8,000 MT from Europe.



TAIWANESE BUSINESS MISSION

Tong-Rong Chang (5th from left), the Speaker of the Keelung City Council, accompanies Taiwanese business delegates to an investment mission in Manila. The group came to explore investments opportunities in the country and trading possibilities with their Filipino counterparts. ROGER MARGALLO

ADB grants $150-M agri productivity loan

DAVAO CITY—THE ASIAN Development Bank has extended a $150-million loan to finance infrastructure projects aimed at boosting agricultural productivity.

The infrastructure projects under the Infrastructure for Rural Productivity Enhancement Sector would be completed over the next five years.

These include 800 kilometers of farm-to-market roads, bridges, irrigation of some 8,000 or more hectares of agricultural lands and building of at least 300 potable water systems.

The ADB's loan would be matched by a $37-million counterpart fund from the government.

The Department of Agriculture (DA) recently signed an agreement with local government officials to implement the program.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur Yap estimated that once the projects are completed, the town-beneficiaries would increase income by as much as 45 percent, reduce poverty incidence by 20 percent and bring down the transport cost of farm and fishery products.

"We are building rural prosperity," Yap said of the program.

He said the government was optimistic the program would increase the productivity of farmers, fisherfolk and those in the rural and impoverished communities.

Yap said that initially, only three local government units (LGUs) were qualified under the project.

Meanwhile, the Japanese government, through its Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR), also gave a grant of $2.8 million to finance livelihood projects in depressed rural communities of the country. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

₱100-M carageenan plant to start operations in 2005

DAVAO CITY—The seaweed industry here will get a needed boost following the start of commercial operations next year of a P100-million carageenan processing plant.

Merly Cruz, Department of Trade and Industry director for Southern Mindanao, said a local investor was putting the final touches to its processing plant in Toril district here.

She, however, declined to identify the investor.

She just said that the plant would boost economic growth and generate much-needed income for many families in the Davao region that rely on the seaweed industry for livelihood.

Cruz said the carageenan processing plant would hire some 500 workers and provide an opportunity for many seaweed planters to earn a monthly income of as much as P60,000.

Seaweed is the main ingredient for carageenan, which is used in many consumer products such as toothpaste and beverages.

The Philippines is one of the top three producers of carageenan in Asia.

Seaweed planting is a thriving business in Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and in Zamboanga.

"This new investment in Davao would surely result in massive planting of seaweeds," Cruz said.

"This is typical of a family backyard gardening, but the only difference is that you plant out in the sea," Cruz said.

A seaweed planter would need a boat, training and an initial investment of P12,000 for the purchase of the seedlings and equipment.

It takes a minimum amount of work since seaweeds will grow in its natural environment as long as the water is not too salty and not near any freshwater streams.

The seaweeds are ready for harvest after just 20 days from its first planting. After drying, these are ready to be sold to the processing plant. *Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Plantersbank increases stake in micro-enterprise bank

PLANTERS Development Bank has increased its stake in Davao-based Micro Enterprise Bank (MEB), a micro-finance thrift bank that aims to make credit and other banking services accessible to the working and entrepreneurial poor.

Plantersbank's increased equity would enable Micro Enterprise Bank to expand its network, from three offices to 36 branches, within three to five years and reach more low-income, self-employed groups nationwide.

MEB was established in November 2001 and is jointly owned by the World Bank's International Finance Corp., the Dutch government-controlled Netherlands Development Finance Co. (FMO) and Plantersbank.

Plantersbank chair and chief operating officer Ambassador Jesus P. Tambunting said the move would make Plantersbank more responsive to the needs of micro enterprises.

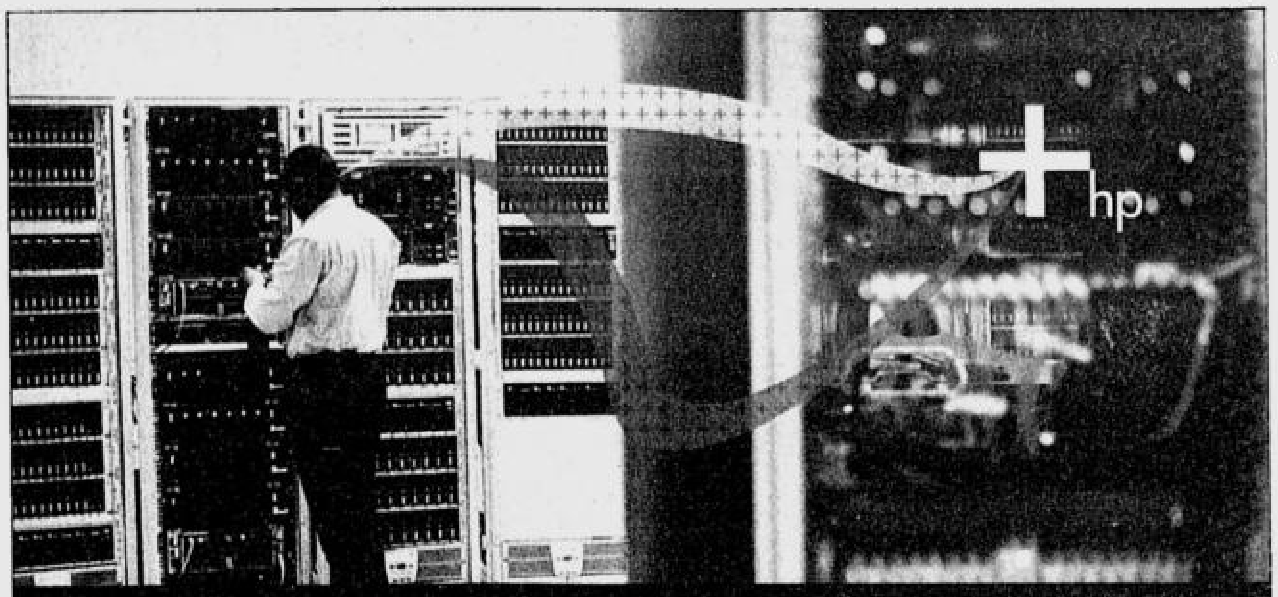
"Our goal is to expand our reach to a larger segment of micro enterprises, not only in Davao, but throughout the country," Tambunting said.

The World Bank and the International Finance Corp., on the other hand, provided a technical assistance grant to improve the bank's management capabilities.

This would enable MEB to serve more borrowing accounts and expand its coverage.

As of September 2004, MEB has granted P180 million in loans to some 6,000 borrowers with an average loan amount of P12,000. More than half of the loans went to finance the trade sector, with the balance divided almost equally between the manufacturing and services sectors.

Plantersbank was fully committed to developing not only the country's SME sector, but the micro-enterprise sector as well, whose potential for economic growth remained largely untapped.



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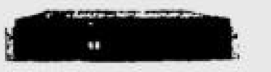

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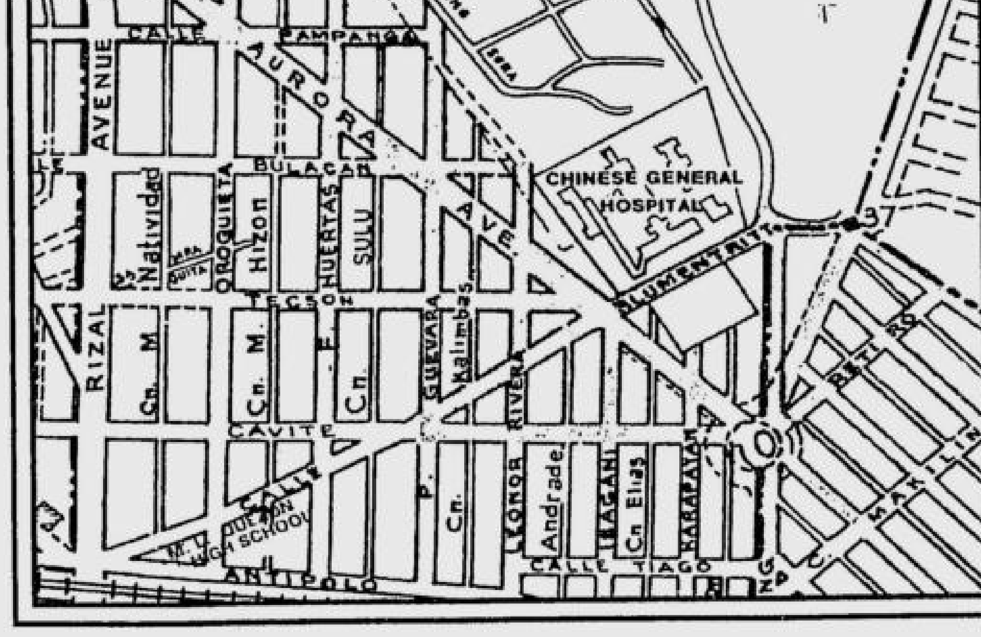


ALL SAINTS DAY PUBLIC ADVISORY CITY OF MANILA

ROAD CLOSURES

Starting at 6:00 am of October 31, 2004 up to 6:00 am of November 2, 2004, Aurora Boulevard from Rizal Avenue up to Makiling St. and peripheral roads shall be closed. On the same period, Retiro St. from Aurora Ave. up to Blumentritt, Dimasalang St. from Calle Tiago to Blumentritt, and Maceda St. from Retiro St. to Makiling St., shall be closed to vehicular traffic.

RE-ROUTING OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC

All vehicles coming from the north (Caloocan and Quezon City) going to Pier North (Manila) shall take C-3 Road towards Jose Abad Santos Avenue or Road 10. Vehicles coming from Quezon City going to Pier South (Ermita) shall take D. Tuazon St. or Mayon St. towards España St./A.H. Lacson Avenue (formerly Gov. Forbes Ave.) or to Quiapo as alternate routes.

PARKING AREAS

Side streets beyond the road closures have been designated as parking areas with parallel parking to be strictly implemented.

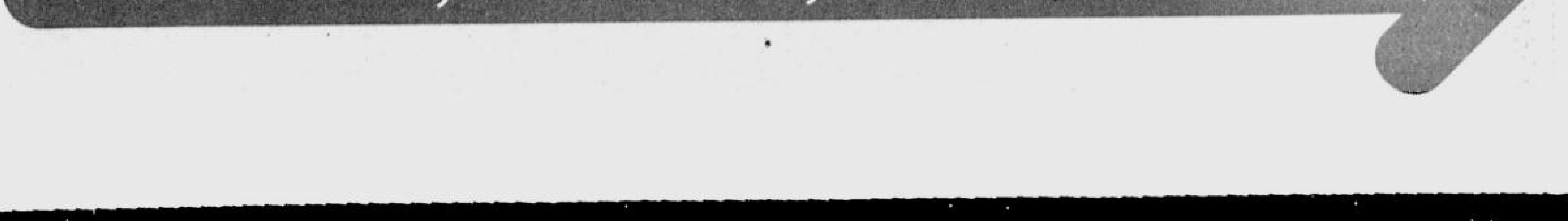
RESTRICTIONS INSIDE CEMETERIES

Except for security and emergency medical services vehicles specifically assigned inside the cemeteries, no vehicle shall be allowed inside the cemeteries starting at midnight on October 30, 2004.

Gambling, bringing in and drinking of liquor, bladed weapons (including bladed implements such as knives, grass cutters and the like), mobile and fixed sound systems, including portable music players, and streamers, are strictly prohibited.

Noisy, boisterous and disruptive activities are not allowed to ensure the solemn observance of All Saints Day.

Vending is strictly prohibited at the entrances and main roads of the North and South cemeteries. Vending is allowed along certain designated side streets but only for those with special permits from the Manila Hawkers Bureau.


Where do you want your business 2GO

Soaring energy costs weigh on US consumer confidence in Oct.

NEW YORK—US consumers turned gloomier in October, beset by soaring energy costs, relentless violence in Iraq, sluggish hiring and an increasingly bitter presidential campaign.

The Conference Board's gauge of consumer confidence fell to 92.8 in October, the lowest in seven months, from 96.7 in September, the private business group said on Tuesday. The reading was below economists' expectations for a dip to 94.

The main index was dragged down mainly by the consumer expectations component, which tumbled to 92.0 from 97.7. The current conditions index slipped to 94.2 from 95.3.

"Consumers are more concerned about the future than they are about current conditions, and I think that has a lot to do with the high oil prices we're seeing and probably some of the election rhetoric," said Gary Thayer, chief economist at A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

In one slightly positive sign, 27.8 percent of consumers surveyed said jobs were "hard to get," down a touch from 28.0 percent a month before. Nearly 34 percent had said employment was hard to find a year ago.

Despite strong economic growth, businesses are cautious about hiring workers while faced with record-high oil prices and steep health care costs.

"While consumers' assessment of the labor market showed a moderate improvement, the gain was not sufficient to ease concerns about job growth in the months ahead," Lynn Franco, director of the Conference Board's Consumer Research Center, said in a statement.

Markets mostly ignored the confidence data, as major stock indexes gained more than one percent mainly on a rebound in battered insurance shares.

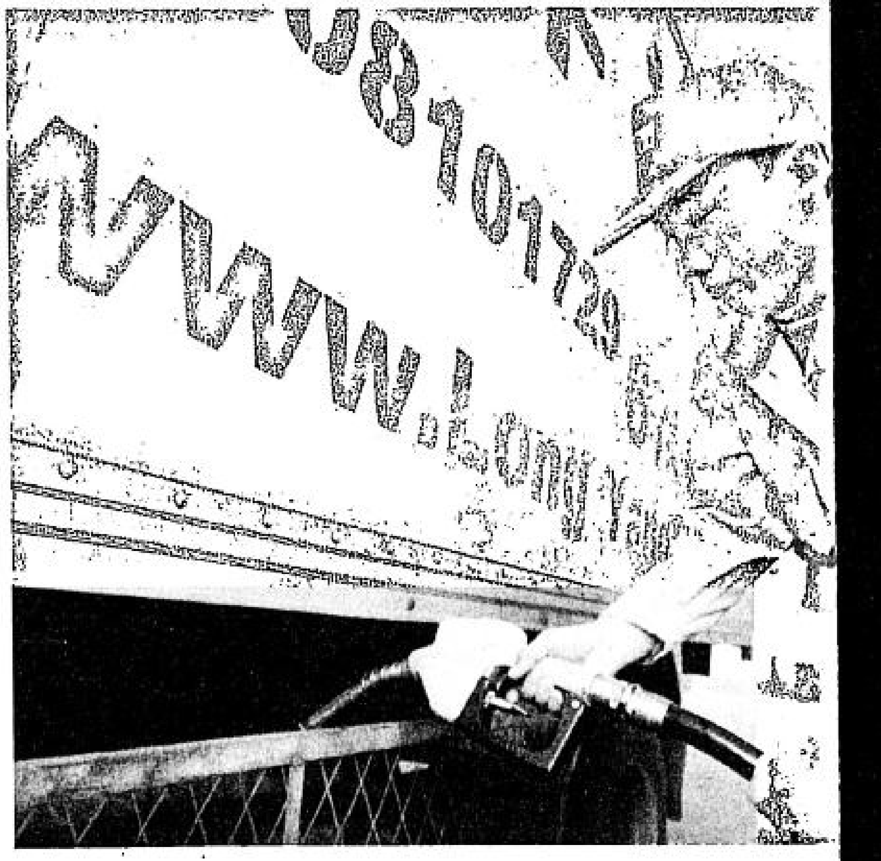
Analysts and traders scrutinize consumer confidence gauges for hints on the outlook for spending, which drives two-thirds of the US economy.

Households have consistently shopped for homes, cars and other goods despite worries over the economy, with low interest rates fueling borrowing, but some economists worry that weak hiring could undermine spending by debt-laden consumers.

Low mortgage rates helped boost existing home sales 3.1 percent in September to the third-highest pace on record, according to a report on Monday.

Two reports on Tuesday showed retail sales at US chain stores slipping in the latest week but still up between 3 percent and 4 percent from a year ago.

"We are watching the consumer with an eagle eye right now, looking for cracks in the armor. But chain store sales so far this month have been, if anything, slightly above plan," said Stephen Stanley, chief economist at RBS Greenwich Capital in Greenwich, Connecticut. *Reuters*



Unilever Q3 earnings up

LONDON—Food and consumer goods giant Unilever reported a 3 percent rise in third-quarter earnings on Wednesday but warned it was reviewing its targets up to 2010, after it issued a shock profits warning last month.

Anglo-Dutch Unilever Plc/NV, which owns brands such as Dove soap, Hellman's mayonnaise and Knorr soups, said nine-month earnings rose 7 percent, ahead of its reduced earnings targets, prompting its shares to edge higher.

But the group caused worries by saying it would review its 2005-2010 targets only eight months after announcing it would switch its focus to boosting shareholder returns, such as share buybacks and dividends, after failing to meet sales targets.

"We are reviewing our assumptions for the period to 2010 and will communicate the outcome of this review together with the full year results," Unilever's joint chairmen Antony Burgmans and Patrick Cescau said in a results statement.

The Anglo-Dutch firm had not put any specific figures to its 2005-2010 targets.

Sales of Unilever's 400 top brands, which make up over 95 percent of sales, dipped 0.9 percent in the third quarter after the second quarter's 0.2 percent fall, and were well behind the 0.5 percent rise seen in the first half of 2004.

The sales of these 400 leading brands—including Lux, Sunsilk, Vaseline, Omo and Comfort—is unlikely to match its February hopes when it saw growth ahead of 2003's 2.5 percent rise and well below 5-6 percent initial hopes from its now discredited five-year 2000-2004 "Path to Growth" strategy.

Unilever said it was dissatisfied with its performance and action is being taken to improve its competitiveness and reignite growth, but analysts warned this meant big rises in marketing and price cuts which will hit fourth-quarter earnings.

In September, the group warned it expected annual underlying earnings to grow by less than 5 percent, compared with more than 10 percent previously, following weaker-than-forecast trading in July and August in ice cream and ready-to-drink Lipton teas. It reiterated this low-single-digit earnings target for this year. *Reuters*

Honda reports record profits

TOKYO—Honda Motor Co. reported record fiscal first half profits Wednesday on strong sales in Asia and Europe, and raised its earnings forecast for the full year.

Japan's No. 3 automaker posted a 0.9 percent rise in net group profit for the six months ended Sept. 30 to 241.38 billion yen ($2.3 billion; euro 1.7 billion) from 239.18 billion yen a year earlier.

First half sales rose 3.5 percent to 4.167 trillion yen ($39 billion; euro 31 billion) from 4.025 trillion yen.

Honda raised its profit outlook for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2005, to 447 billion yen ($4 billion; euro 3.3 billion), from its forecast in July at 417 billion yen ($3.9 billion; euro 3 billion).

The forecast is about 4 percent below Honda's 464 billion yen net profit for the last fiscal year.

Honda said it now expects sales to total 8.69 trillion yen ($81 billion; euro 64 billion), up 6.5 percent from 8.16 trillion yen the previous fiscal year.

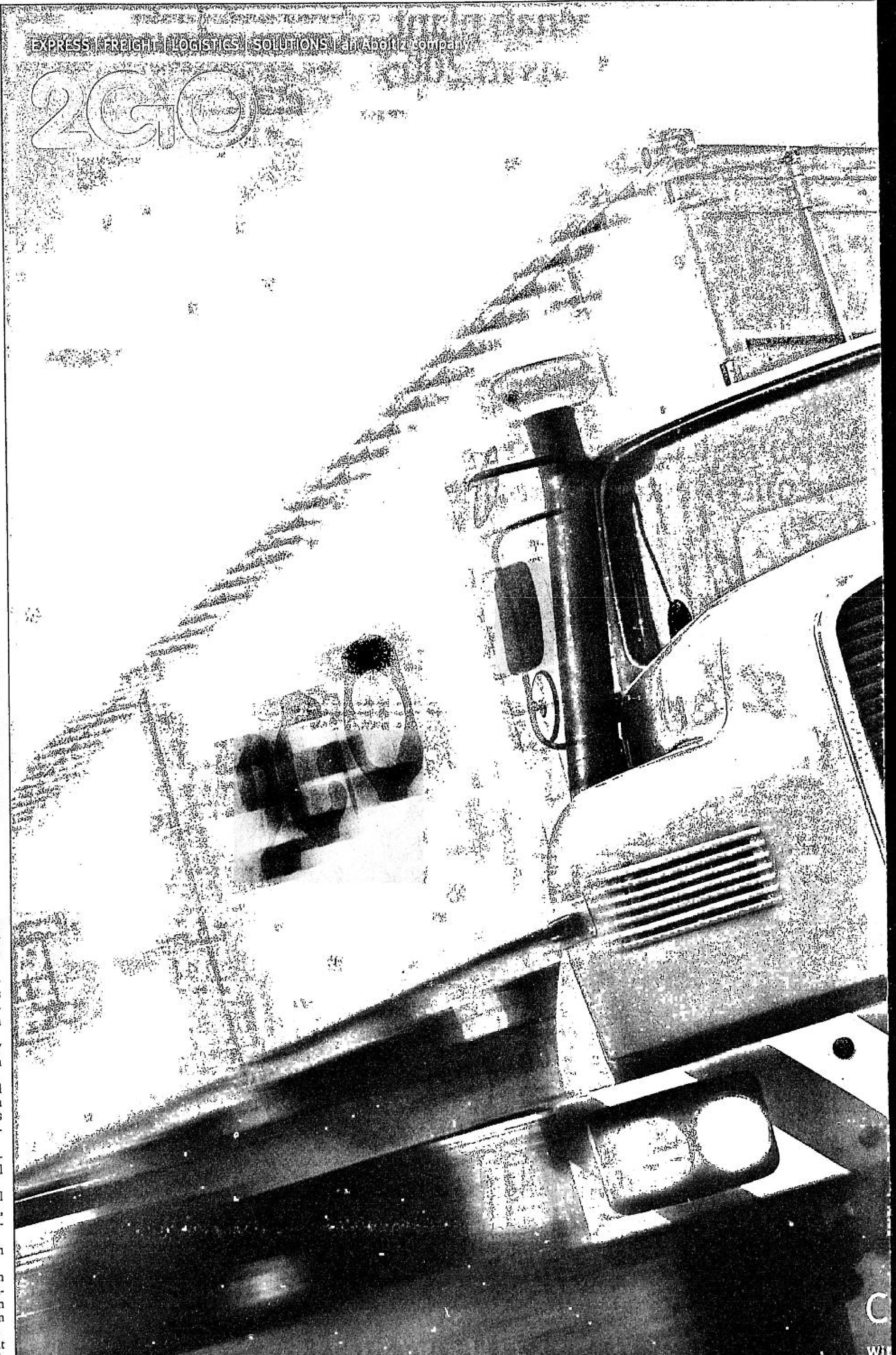
Honda had forecast sales of 8.56 trillion yen in July.

But Honda said a stronger Japanese yen pushed down its profits for the July-September quarter by 7.5 percent to 127.12 billion yen ($1.2 billion; euro 1 billion), down from 137.36 billion yen the same quarter last year.

Group sales in the quarter grew 3.8 percent to 2.094 trillion yen ($20 billion; euro 15 billion) from 2.017 trillion yen.

A strong yen tends to push down the earnings of exporters like Honda.

The US dollar cost about 110 yen in the quarter ended Sept. 30, while it was trading at nearly 118 yen a year ago. *AP*



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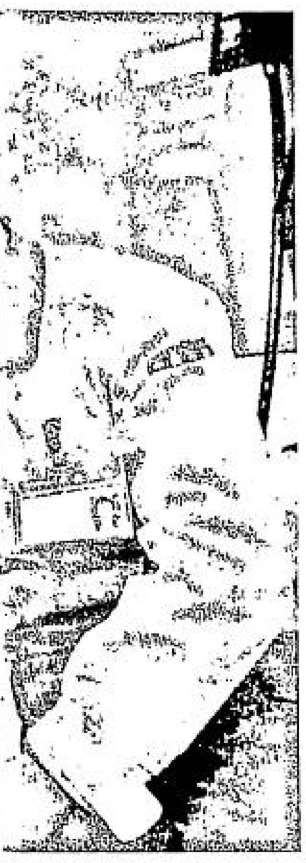


A CHINESE worker pumps petrol into a vehicle at a gas station in Beijing. China's booming economy is driving demand for coal, oil, power and transport that far outstrips national supplies, potentially leaving millions nationwide in the cold, the China Daily said. National authorities had warned that shortages of resources could trigger power cuts in at least nine provinces this winter, the newspaper added. REUTERS

SINGAPORE—Crude oil futures hovered around the $55-a-barrel mark Wednesday on fears of a heating oil shortage ahead of the northern winter, and oil cartel Opec urged Washington to release more oil from its strategic reserve to calm the market.

The price of oil maintained its lofty heights as traders continued to speculate that US government data about its commercial petroleum stockpiles, expected later Wednesday, was likely to show a fall in distillates for a sixth straight week.

December delivery crude stood at $55.08 mid-afternoon in Asian after-hours electronic trade on the New York Mercantile Exchange—down nine cents from its overnight close.

It hit a record $55.67 Monday before settling at $55.17.

Even a slight increase may not do enough to cool a market ready to jump on any bit of bad news. Oil prices have risen more than 80 percent from a year ago on the back of higher than expected demand primarily from China, supply fears and limited excess capacity.

Heating oil for November was trading at $1.5690 per gallon (3.8 liters) Wednesday. The contract expires Friday.

London Brent for December was at $51.45, down slightly from its closing price.

Opec president Purnomo Yusgiantoro said Wednesday it has asked the United States to "use their oil reserves to help cool down the prices."

He said the group will discuss the issue further but did not say whether it had received a pledge from Washington on the matter.

The United States has just under 300 million barrels of crude in reserve, and a recent move to loan out 4 million barrels from its strategic reserve had a limited and short-lived impact.

Yusgiantoro has also asked Opec members to increase production "to give a signal to the market that we aren't short of supply."

The 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are already pumping at full tilt at a record 30 million barrels daily.

Unrest and production halts in member nations Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Venezuela have added to the price spike in recent months.

Though prices have moved more than $10 in a month, they would need to reach $80 per barrel in order to surpass the all-time peak, in inflation-adjusted terms, set in February 1981.

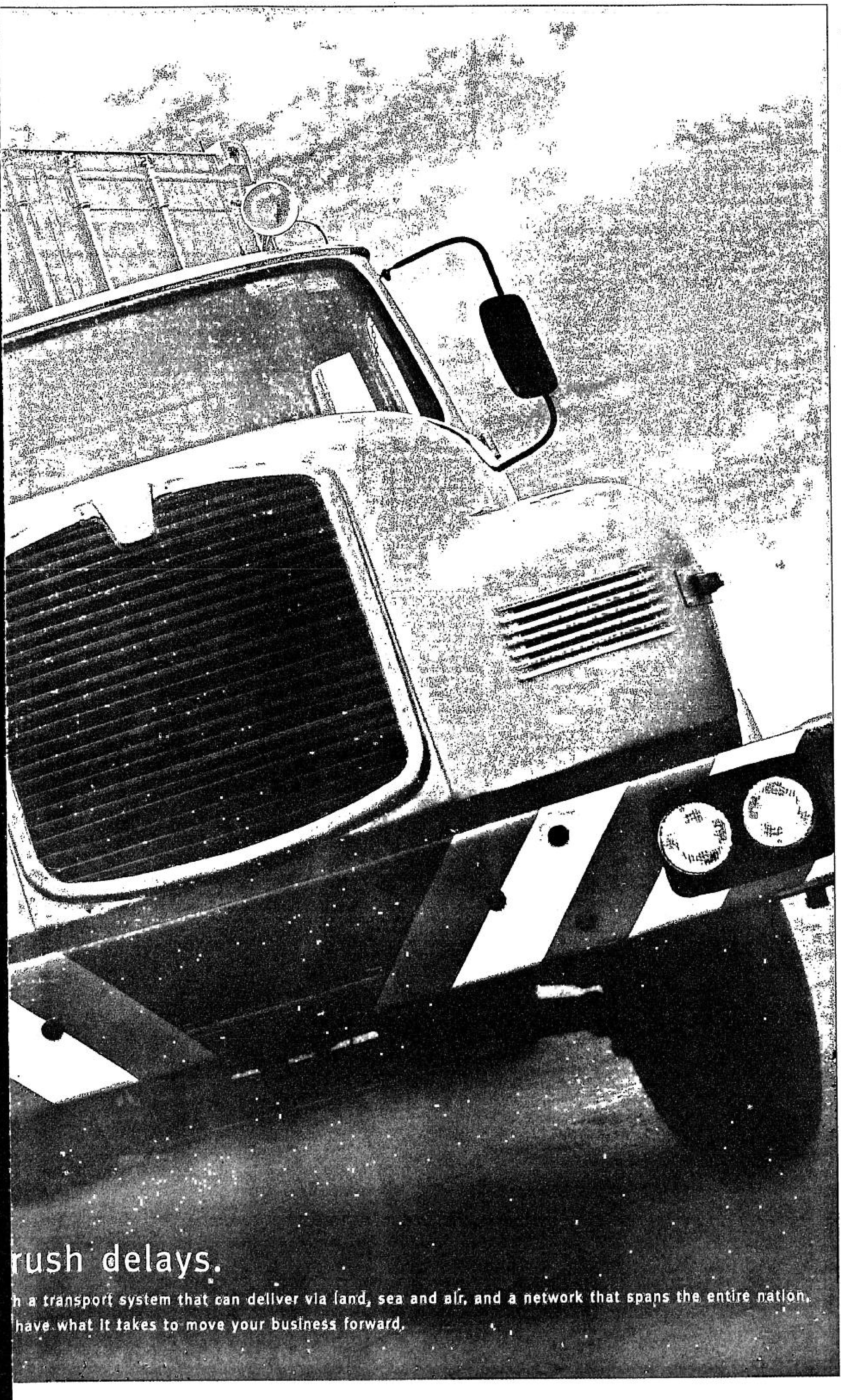
Crude oil price increases in the past month have primarily been due to the slow pace of recovery in the Gulf of Mexico, where Hurricane Ivan forced rigs to close and pipelines to shut from mid-September. More than 25 million barrels of production have been lost since Ivan hit, while 103.2 billion cubic feet of natural gas output was lost.

Underlying winter fears and supply disruptions is the world's limited excess capacity—hovering about one percent above daily consumption of 82.4 million barrels, leaving little room to maneuver in a production outage.

Elsewhere, an impending strike in Nigeria—the world's seventh largest exporter—moved firmly onto traders' radar screens as the main workers' union moved for a nationwide work stoppage by Sunday to lower fuel prices.

Peter Akpatason, president of Nigeria's main blue-collar oil union, warned Tuesday that "if the government is adamant" in refusing to lower fuel prices, the next phase of the strike "will impact on production and exports."

The news from Nigeria—the fifth largest source of US crude—came immediately after markets eased after a return-to-work move by Norwegian oil workers after a four-month long strike. *AP*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Asian shares bounce on Wall St. rally

SINGAPORE—Asian stocks bounced on Wednesday after the strongest rally in the Dow Jones index since June, but gains were capped by a slump among chip-related stocks and after another earthquake spooked Japanese investors.

Japan's Nikkei index lost momentum after a strong tremor rattled the area struck by a powerful quake on Saturday.

The Nikkei stock average recovered to close up 0.18 percent at 10,691.95.

Wall Street's rally was also expected to lift shares in Europe, where banks were in focus with results from Santander and Nordea.

Investors marked up shares in Unilever after the food and consumer goods giant reported a 3-percent rise in third-quarter net profit but warned it was reviewing its targets up to 2010.

In Asian share trade, exporters rose but many chip-related stocks fell after Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co.'s (TSMC) chair warned of a "gloomy feeling" as the boom in consumer electronics demand subsides.

TSMC shares fell 0.71 percent in Taiwan.

An MSCI index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 0.42 percent. Gains in its healthcare component were offset by declines in the technology segment, which slid 0.49 percent.

Benchmark stock indexes rose between 0.2 percent and 0.38 percent in Hong Kong and Singapore, but fell 0.21 to 0.47 percent in Taiwan and South Korea.

Retailers, media, banks and mining stocks pushed Australia's benchmark index over one percent higher to an all-time record of 3,746.6 before easing back slightly.

Thailand's index dropped 2.53 percent following Muslim protests in the southern province of Narathiwat and reports that 78 protesters had died while in army custody. *Reuters*

S. Korea unlikely to hit GDP target

SEOUL—South Korea is unlikely to achieve a 5 percent economic growth in 2005, given slowing growth in neighboring China and firm global oil prices, a senior official at Moody's Investors Service told Reuters on Wednesday.

"For next year, 4 percent growth is plausible, but 5 percent will be difficult," said Thomas Byrne, senior credit officer at Moody's, who is visiting Seoul for a conference.

"China is slowing down somewhat. Oil prices are high and we have interest hikes in the United States and elsewhere. We are also facing slower growth in the US, Japan and other places," he said.

South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said earlier this week that his government would do its best to achieve 5 percent economic growth in 2005, although he conceded a long-awaited recovery in consumption could be up to a year away.

Moody's Byrne said the biggest problems facing the South Korean economy, the third largest in Asia, were weak investment by domestic companies and bloated household loans.

"South Koreans can't finance consumption through debt any more ... South Korea will have fairly weak growth for the next couple of years unless household loans are reduced and companies make more investments," he said.

Exports have kept the economy on recovery path, while households have been paying off a pile of credit card debt.

The ruling party and the government have recently announced a string of measures to boost the economy, including income tax cuts and increased budget spending on projects to create more jobs and boost investment.

The ruling Uri Party is pushing to raise government spending further in next year's budget. Any increased budget spending would probably lift South Korea's fiscal deficit above one percent of annual GDP envisaged under the current plan. *Reuters*

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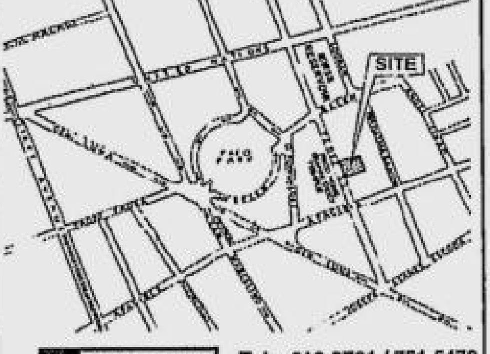

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NOTICE TO THE DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF CULASI (ANTIQUE), INC.

1. The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Culasi (Antique), Inc. (RBCI) on Wednesday, October 27, 2004.
2. Depositors are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the closed RBCI, the designated payoff site. PDIC representatives are stationed at the premises of the closed bank from October 27 to November 11, 2004 to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours Monday to Friday.

   After the said date, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC Claims Counter, 6th Floor, SSS Bldg., Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St., Makati City from Monday to Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., or by mail to:

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3. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims:
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   Other documents maybe required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.
4. Pursuant to the provision of R.A. 3591, as amended by R.A. 9302, the presecriptive date (last day) for filing claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Culasi (Antique), Inc. is on **October 21, 2006.** After **October 21, 2006,** PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

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(PDI - Oct. 27 & 28, 2004)

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The estate of the late Purificacion Correa was extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Doc. No. 332, Page No. 67, Book XIII, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Lino Soriano of Q.C. (PDI-Oct. 14, 21, 28, 2004)

NOTICE OF LOSS

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Canteen concession for the College of Business Administration
Cafeteria with an area of 144.76 square meters

B) The following eligibility requirements in two copies, duly certified must be submitted to the Supply and Property Management Office (SPMD) at Instructional Materials Corp. Building (National Book Development Board), A. Regidor Street fronting the PAG-ASA Astronomical Observatory, U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders:

1) SEC/DTI/Cooperative Development Registration Papers
2) 2004 Business License/Permit
3) Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2002-2003) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by the BIR.
4) Company Profile
5) List of clients (past and present) with corresponding contract costs, references and supporting documents
6) List of company equipment and other assets
7) Duly notarized statement of the duly authorized representative of the company that it is not "blacklisted" or barred from bidding by any government agencies, office or corporations.

DETAILED SPECIFICATIONS WILL BE LISTED IN THE BID DOCUMENTS

The above-mentioned requirements must be completely submitted in two (2) separate folders with **Table of Contents and properly tabbed.** Otherwise, the same will not be accepted by the SPMO.

NOTE : ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.

C) Deadline for submission : November 9, 2004
D) Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders
E) The University of the Philippines reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical, financial and production criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be most advantageous to the University.
F) For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Pedro E. Fajardo, Chief, SPMD, anytime during office hours at the above-mentioned address or call Tel. No. 920-53-74 (direct) and 920-53-01 local 4331, 4911 and 4913, or contact the Business Concessions Office (BCO) at Tel. No. 925-6996 and 920-53-01 Local 7926.

(Sgd.) EMERLINDA R. ROMAN
Chancellor

(PDI – Oct. 28 & Nov. 3, 2004)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

32 PROVEN & MEASURED BENEFITS OF NEW MANGOSTEEN JUICE. MEMBERS NEEDED. 09195531353 //takemeto.biz/gotime

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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

RTW Wholesaler 3738821

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

Masseur 18-25yo 09263833404

FEMALE

All around maid 9115997

EXP MKTG OFFICER 9115997

HAIR DRESSER / RECEPTIONIST SM MEGAMALL 0917-8398638

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FEMALE

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

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Manila Memorial Park
Leading the Way
SUCAT, Parañaque - HOLY CROSS, Novaliches - DASMARIÑAS, Cavite
Plaridel, BULACAN - Liloan, CEBU - Ma-a, DAVAO
(632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

OBITUARIES

THE HERITAGE PARK FORT BONIFACIO
"The newly opened Mortuary & Crematory at the Heritage Park"
Memorial Park
Mortuary
Viewing Chapels
Crematory
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Trunk Line: (632) 845-2334 to 38

ROSARIO MENDOZA DE LOS REYES

of Magsingal, Ilocos Sur
and Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro

President, Rural Bank of Pinamalayan
Owner, Delos Reyes Medical Clinic
Owner, Delos Reyes Farms

Peacefully joined her Creator
on October 23, 2004 at the age of 79.

Her loving children **Dr. Tony & Ching, Ataw & Marie, Abet, Engr. Bernie & Ana, Chichu & Nady.**

Her loving grandchildren **Umbing, Kim, Bruce, Adrian, Lourdes, Macho, Andrew, Mickey, CB, DA, Erika & LA.**

relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Wawa, Pinamalayan, Oriental Mindoro.

Interment will be on Saturday, October 30, 2004 at the Heavenly Peace Cemetery, Oriental Mindoro after the 2:00 p.m. service.

May she rest in peace.

GLORIA VALLIDO MANALO

of Noveleta, Cavite

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 25, 2004 at the age of 82.

Her daughter **DAISY MANALO YAMBAO**; grandchildren **JOJO** and **LUDE, GINA** and **ED, GIGI, GRACIE**; great-grandchildren and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Chapel 14, New Wing, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Funeral Mass will be held on October 29, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. at La Funeraria Paz. Interment will follow at the Noveleta Municipal Cemetery.

Thank you

for your gestures of sympathy, your donations to Casa dela Providencia, your support for the distribution of Bibles and for everything else that you did to ease the heaviness of our hearts in the passage of our dear

RIO

from her earthly existence to eternal life with Our Father.

She had lived with joy and through our sadness now, we seek to follow the reason for that joy.

CHARLIE, ALI, CLAUDIA, JAYME and the rest of the **Cojuangco** and **Diaz** families

---

SUSAN LEE HUAT ORTIGA

Peacefully rests in the Grace
and Goodness of Our Lord
on October 25, 2004 at the age of 48.

Her remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Quezon City, Chapel Imperial.

Interment will be on October 29, 2004, 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

In Loving Memory
on the 25th Death Anniversary of our dearly beloved

CONSTANCIA M. MASCARIÑAS

(September 3, 1911 – October 28, 1979)

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance
Psalm 112:6

Love from:
MONCHING
REM
CARLO ALFIO
JASON RYAN
DIN
KAY CONSTANCIA
KATHLEEN DINAH

Our Dearly Beloved

ATTY. DOMINGO (DOMINGUITO) MADARA GUEVARA

of Iriga City & Manila

Peacefully joined our Lord on 25 October 2004 at the age of 83.

His bereaved wife : Aida Agato Guevara
Children:
Imelda (Aimee), Domingo (Che) & Ines, Anacleto (Toti) & Edith, Henedina (Dina) & Jimmy Paraiso, Ma. Corazon (Marite) & Ramon Fonacier, Dennis & Nimfa, Gisela (Aya) and Roberto (Jobert) & Marie
Grandchildren:
Katrina, Santino & Joseph Guevara; Therese, Melanyn & Lawrenz Guevara; Carlo & Angelo Paraiso; Miggy & Seida Fonacier; Nathaniel Guevara; and Benedict Guevara
Brothers & sister:
Judge Jose (†) & Dr. Nenita Madara; Atty. Manuel & Fe Guevara and Placida (Nene) Guevara (†)
Nephews & Nieces:
Sol & Ramon Malaya, Baby Madara, Buboy & Linda Madara, Aiding & Robert Caganda, Larry & Jimpee Madara; Bimbam & Roy Albulario, Babette, Boyee & Bebop Guevara

Cousins, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains now lie in state at the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat (San Beda College Chapel), Mendiola, Manila and will be transferred to the Felicidad Chapel of the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City on Thursday, 28 October 2004 at 2:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Thursday, 4 November 2004 at the Heritage Park, Taguig after the 2:00 p.m. Holy Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS • FREE OBIT DESIGN

"For God so
loved the world,
that He gave His
only begotten Son
that whoever believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
everlasting life."
John 3:16

Gracia Juana Carrillo Rojas

Peacefully joined our Lord and her husband ***Emmanuel I. Rojas, Sr.***
on October 26, 2004 at the age of 92.

Her bereaved children **Noel & Lita, Eric & Judy, Ernie & Dedette,** and **Eddie** and **Nini**; grandchildren **Anna, Nina, Lisa (†), Brandon & Tara, Aimee, Gino, Jon & Tanya, Faye & Tahr, Francis, Pia, Eric & Gladys,** and **Lorenzo**; and great grandchildren, siblings **Romulo & Peg (†), Cory (†) & Bebeng (†) Galang**; nephews, nieces, and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment will be today, October 28, 2004 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

Our organization is urgently in need of the following:

Accountant

- graduate of Accountancy and preferably Certified Public Accountant
- with at least five (5) years experience in general accounting and USAID-funded projects
- highly organized and analytical in financial reporting
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- proficient in computer (Excel, MS Word, Quick Books)
- can work with minimum supervision
- diligent and team player

Bookkeepers

- graduate of Accountancy
- with at least three (3) years experience in bookkeeping
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- proficient in computer (Excel, MS Word, Quick Books)
- can work with minimum supervision
- diligent and team player

Administrative Assistants

- college graduate of a 4-year course
- highly organized in administrative, and project files
- flexible in multi-tasking workplace
- excellent oral and written communication skills
- highly proficient in computer (MS Word, Power Point, Excel, Quick Books)
- diligent and team player

Drivers

- at least vocational course graduate
- with at least 5 years experience in driving
- with professional driver's license
- flexible and ability to communicate in English language
- good moral character

Interested applicants, please e-mail your comprehensive resumé at IPSIRecruit@yahoo.com on or before 8th of November 2004

DBP GRANTS P6-M SUB-LOAN FOR HOUSING PROJECT Shown during the last agreement are DBP president & CEO Reynaldo G. David congratulating Benigno Sanga, one of the first ten beneficiaries of the project. Others in photo are (from left) Angeles City Mayor Carmelo Lazatin; Vice President and HUDCC Chair Noli De Castro; HUDCC undersecretary Armando de Castro; DBP president and CEO Reynaldo G. David and Michael Lindfield, Senior Housing and Urban Development Specialist, ADB (partly hidden).

DNR Dance and Ballet Studio golden anniversary

THE DNR Dance and Ballet Studio of Legazpi City will *'Celebrate and Dance!'* on its golden anniversary at the Sunshine International School Gym, Tagas, Daraga, Albay on Saturday, Oct. 30 at 6:30 p.m. Before the show, the coffee table art book, titled *'A Dancer's Show In Oil'* authored by Dehlia Nery-Napay Rebustillo, the ballet directress and choreographer will be launched. The program includes the choreographer's favorite roles she danced in the '50's and the '60's during the studio early years: Tampuhan will be reprised by Gale Jacob; Gypsy to be danced by Jamil Rebustillo; The Fisherman and the Waves to be interpreted Ma. Rose Daguno and Kristine Gueriña. The younger students will model old costumes worn in past recitals. A jazzy dance 'Candyman' will be repeated in the 'Children Scene'; Kabayao's folkdance violin music Pamulenawen and Rinconada will be danced by advanced ballet students. Excerpts of dance-dramas presented in the early 80's and 90's: Daragang Magayon, Noli Mi Tangere and May Day Eve will be reviewed. A song, 'Magayon' composed by the choreographer will be sung by Bong Basallote. It is the 'Awit' of Ulap Magayon's true love. Guest singers at intervals are Emily Marfil and Jeronimo Sevilla and violinist Zahrah Calleja. As most numbers are reminiscent of past recitals – disco, rock and jazz numbers of the 70's and 80's will keep alive the fading style. Ballet in solo, duet, trio, and quartet will be danced to Mendelsohn, Delibes and Tchaikovsky's music. The Portrait a classic ballet presented thrice in the past 50 years and first shown in 1955 will be restaged. A grand pantomina culminate the program.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zambales
Municipality of Botolan
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

October 28, 2004
World Bank/IBRD Ln. No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under contract located at Barangay Mambog, Municipality of Botolan, Province of Zambales. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Botolan, Province of Zambales and implementing partner of DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the **Rehabilitation of 3.388 kms. Buen-Banayoyo Road** under **Contract No. RIRR 04 045 01 STM-Z.**

Project Duration : 116 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents : PhP5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security : PhP99,000.00
Bid Closing Date : December 10, 2004@2:00 PM

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	20,328.00	sq.m.
12	Roadway & Drainage Excavation	1,760.00	cu.m.
13A	Structure Excavation (Manual Labor)	320.70	cu.m.
13B	Structure Excavation (Equipment)	218.70	cu.m.
14(2)	Embankment Using Borrow Materials	3,840.00	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-base Course	3,049.20	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	2,032.80	cu.m.
43	Reinforcing Steel Bars	4,005.38	kgs.
44	Structural Concrete Class "A"	56.00	cu.m.
50(4)	Pipe Culverts & Storm Drains	10.00	ln.m.
51(3)	Grouted Riprap	90.00	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned/leased; Water truck (1 unit)-owned; survey instruments-leased/owned

A complete set of bidding documents maybe purchase by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Botolan, Province of Zambales starting November 4, 2004 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on November 23, 2004 at 2:00 P.M.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a security deposit of PhP99,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Botolan, Province of Zambales, on or before the Bid closing date on December 10, 2004 at 2:00 PM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC, ARCDPII of Botolan, Zambales reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **ERLIN A. RICO**
Chairman, LGU-BAC, ARCDPII

(PDI-Oct. 28, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development – Ilocos
MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER
"PHIC Accredited Health Care Provider"
Batac, Ilocos Norte
Trunk line 077-792-3144; Fax line 077-792-3133
E-mail address: mmmh@laoag.net

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY/ELIGIBILITY SCREENING & TO BID

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center, Batac, Ilocos Norte, thru the Bids & Awards Committee is inviting bids from accredited suppliers, manufacturers and/or exclusive distributors to bid for the supply and delivery of the following:

Hospital Medical Equipment
Drugs & Medicines Requirements
Medical/Surgical Supplies, Laboratory & Dental Supplies

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

1. Issuance of Eligibility Checklist – November 08 - 12, 2004
2. Submission of duly accomplished eligibility documents – November 18, 2004
3. Posting of eligible suppliers – November 19, 2004
4. Issuance of Bid Documents – November 22-26, 2004
5. Pre-bid conference – November 26, 2004 10:00 AM sharp MMMH & MC Training Center
6. Submission & opening of sealed bids for – Drugs & Medicines – December 06, 2004 9:30 AM sharp (same venue)
   - Medical / Surgical Supplies: Laboratory, X-ray and Dental Supplies – December 07, 2004 9:30 AM sharp
   - Medical Equipment – December 08, 2004 9:30 AM sharp

The complete set of bid documents may be purchased by the interested eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (Php 1,000.00) only. Bid documents may be secured at the Property & Supply Section.

The Mariano Marcos Memorial Hospital & Medical Center reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids without offering any reason or waive any formality therein and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposals as evaluated by the Bids & Awards Committee, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) MONA LIZA PASTRANA, M.D.
BAC CHAIRMAN

(PDI – October 28, 2004)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Overseas Workers Welfare Administration

TO : ALL ACCREDITED PDOS TRAINERS

Subject : Re-Orientation Course in PDOS Management

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) will be conducting a series of Re-Orientation Course in Pre-Departure Orientation Seminar (PDOS) Management for all accredited PDOS Trainers on 29 October 2004 and 05, 19 and 26 November 2004. This is in line with the development program and finalization of list of accredited PDOS Trainers. Those who fail to comply will be deemed no longer interested and will be delisted from the registry of trainers.

All accredited trainers are advised to submit a letter of intent on or before 28 October 2004, addressed to The Director, Plans and Programs Office (PPO), OWWA Building, F.B. Harrison St., Pasay City.

For more details, please contact Mr. Ronald A. Mina or Mr. John A. Macalincag at 8917763 or 8917601 loc. 5620.

(Sgd.) **MARIANITO D. ROQUE**
Administrator

(PDI--Oct. 27, 28 & 29, 2004)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority (NFA) invites authorized distributors/suppliers and manufacturers to apply for eligibility and to bid for Portable and Digital Type Multi-Grain Moisture Meters for the following lots:

LOT	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET
1	40 units	P 1,800,000.00
2	23 units	1,035,000.00
3	37 units	1,665,000.00

The schedule of the bidding activities are as follows:

Issuance of Eligibility Requirements & Bid Documents	October 28 to November 4, 2004
Pre-Bidding Conference	November 5, 2004, 10:00 AM
Submission and Opening of Bids	November 22, 2004, 10:00 AM

Eligibility requirements and Bidding Documents may be secured from the BAC Secretariat at the National Food Authority (NFA), 5th Floor Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, Tel. No. 742-4140 or 711-7433 (Asst. Dir. Escarez or Ms. Fernandez) upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P5,000.00 per lot.

Venue for the Pre-Bidding Conference and the Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the 7th flr., HRMD Training Room, NFA, Quezon City.

Each bidder shall enclose a Bidder's Security in any of the following Schedule of Amount:

A.	Cash, Manager's Check, Cashier's Check Irrevocable Letter of Credit or Bank Draft	1% of the Approved Budget
B.	Bank Guarantee	1.5% of the Approved Budget
C.	Surety Bond	2.5% of the Approved Budget
D.	Foreign Guarantee	100% of the Approved Budget

It is required that the prospective bidders must have a single largest contract – completed within the last five (5) years and similar to the contract to be bid – whose value, adjusted to current prices must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid and to accept only such bids which are advantageous to the government.

NFA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their respective bid.

(Sgd.) JESSUP P. NAVARRO
Assistant Administrator for Stabilization and
Chairman, BAC for Operations Related Procurement

(PDI – October 28 & November 4, 2004)

Industrial relations conference

THE Philippine Industrial Relations Society Inc., (PIRS) will hold its National Conference (NC) on Industrial Relations on Nov. 11-12 at the Dusit Hotel Nikko. NC's theme is "Quality Partnerships Towards a Decent Workplace: Blending Homegrown with Global Practices and Strategies." Keynote speakers are DOLE Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas who will talk on the "Philippine Labor Updates and Policy Directions" and ILO-Manila Director Werner Blenk who will speak on "Promoting Fair Globalization and Decent Work: The Scorecard from the Viewpoint of ILO."

Sessions topics are: Sharing the Success of Employees' Council; Examining the State of Labor-Management Relations in the Philippines; Strategic Role of IR/HR in Transforming Enterprises into Globally Competitive Workplaces; Blending New Trends in IR/HR Through Alternative Disputes Settlement; Innovation in Collective Bargaining; From Adversarial to Quality Partnerships at the Workplace: Blending with Best Practices on Quality Partnerships at the Workplace; Learning from Best Practices in L-M Relations; Learning from Global Best Practices on Quality Partnerships at the Workplace; Learning from Best Practices in Productivity; Sharing the Successes of Filipino Enterprises; Homegrown Best Practices and Strategies for Global Competitiveness; Social Dialogue on Wage Fixing and Phil. IR, and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Invited speakers for the learning sessions come from the government, employer, academe and labor sectors. Interested parties may call the PIRS Secretariat: Dick – 948-3559; Ria – 890-4889; William – 962-0608 or email: pirs_natcon@yahoo.com

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Promote your products and services, boost your sales, and expand your local and international market... Be a SPONSOR or EXHIBITOR of the MUST-SEE EVENTS for the OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) and SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTREPRENEURS (SMEs) as well as their families this December which is the **Month of the OFWs**. JOIN the...

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2004

The 1st Philippine Exhibition and Conference on Job, Livelihood, Investment and Business Opportunities for the Overseas Employment and Small and Medium Enterprise Industries

-- back-to-back with --

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Food and Beverage Trade Fair 2004

The 1st Philippine Exhibition on Food and Beverage Equipment, Products and Services for the OFW and SME Families

10-12 December 2004 * 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Megatrade Hall 1, 5th Floor, Building B, SM Megamall

INQUIRER and **Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc.**

Greetings from the Inquirer Classifieds and Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation!

The Philippine Daily Inquirer and POFW-SMENFI are working together to come out with a very **Special Supplement** that will feature products and services for the more than 8 million OFW families and 475,000 SME families. The OFW remittances to their families is estimated at US$20 billion annually. Data from the National Statistics Office revealed that remittances from OFWs are not only the driving force behind consumer spending but it also spurred the development of micro-businesses that now account for over 90 percent of all businesses in the country.

This special pull-out section of the Philippine Daily Inquirer is a tabloid-sized section (7 cols x 30 cm) and is dedicated to feature the

Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Milestones 2004 back-to-back with
Pamilyang OFWs-SMEs Food and Beverage Trade Fair 2004 SUPPLEMENT

This will definitely be the reference of choice.

The Supplement is scheduled for release on December 10, 2004 at the opening of the above-mentioned events. In line with this, we are providing you with the following special advertising rates:

FULL PAGE AD (23cm x 30cm)	= P 56,862.50
HALF PAGE AD (23cm x 15 cm)	= P 28,431.25
QUARTER PAGE (11.5cm X 15cm)	= P 15,620.00

- * Full color advertising with NO color surcharge
- * Reasonable ad rates in the most read broadsheet in the land
- * A most cost efficient and effective advertising medium

------------------------ADVERTISING CONTRACT------------------------

Yes, we agree to place _____ page ad in the Supplement in the amount of P________________.
We also agree to submit the ad material in TIF, EPS or JPEG Format not later than ____________
Name ______________________ Position ______________________
Company Name ______________________
Address ______________________
Tel. Nos. ______________ Fax No. ____________ E-mail ____________

For more information, call the Pamilyang OFW-SME Network Foundation, Inc. Secretariat at Tel. Nos. (632) 912-58-03 and (632) 437-16-60 with Fax No. (632) 437-16-59; 24-hour mobile 0916-7421768; and E-mail: gearcom@tri-isys.com. You may also visit our website: www.pamilyangofw-sme.com

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OBITUARIES

LUZ MATANGUIHAN TRINIDAD

of Mataas na Kahoy, Batangas
and Iba, Zambales

Peacefully joined her Creator after receiving the last sacraments at the age of 78.

Her loving husband **ORLANDO**; daughters **MYRLE** & Emmanuel Monzon, **ERLINDA** & Danilo Pangan, **CECILIA** & Ludy Enoviso; grandchildren **TRISHA** & Donald Magbayao, **KRIS** & Ron Garcia, **EMMANUEL JR.** & Aimee Manila, **RYAN** & Ehmelot Borre; great grandchildren Jade, Nia, Jordan & Gabrielle; brothers & sisters request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati.

Interment will be held on Friday, November 5, 2004 at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque following the 8 a.m. Mass at the Loyola Memorial Chapel.

FELIX "JOJO" SALAZAR

peacefully joined his Creator on October 25, 2004 at the age of 55.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Poblacion, Indang, Cavite.

Interment will be at Roman Catholic Cemetery, Indang, Cavite after the 3 p.m. mass at San Gregorio Parish Church.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

SUBIC & OLONGAPO

Twin destinations for fun, sun and sea

Dennis E. Dungao
Photos by Gershom Pertacorta

Inseparable and standing on common ground, based on heritage and natural beauty untarnished, Subic and Olongapo were, on record, two places and yet enigmatically single. Many lines had been written about these two fantastic locations, but mere words, it seems, always fail to depict, nor explain the true essence of each visit made. Even when you thought you knew everything about stylish places, a genre or the good life, you don't. You just have to feel it and live it to give meaning to these simple words of English this traveling lifestyle writer has so composed. Undoubtedly, Subic and Olongapo are the ultimate destinations this side of paradise for fun, sun and sea, guaranteed to catch your fancy for a wonderful and worthwhile getaway.

A home of our own

At Forest Hills and East Gate Village Resort, rural and urban living comes hand in hand cohered with Mother Nature to give the ultimate feel of literally lying in the lap of luxury, and savoring it! Fresh mountain scent complimented by blooming gardens of flowers in delightful shades. Lush green seems to go on forever on the horizons, invigorating tired eyes as the sun smiles upon a seemingly great day.

Forest Hill and East Gate Village Resort offers lavish villas that you can call your "home" while in Subic. Introduced during the Apec Summit of 1996 that housed foreign dignitaries and other VIP's alike, these elegant stead owns a classy address on El Kabayo Road, Binictican Drive inside the SBMA. Having full features of a house complete with a kitchen where you can cook, a dining room, receiving room and three bedrooms, including a master's quarter, every villa is a home away

TWIN/B14

FOREST Hills luxurious villas

PRETTY Pancake House Subic

PANCAKE HOUSE

By the Sea Resort

#99 National Hi-way, Bo. Barretto, Olongapo City, Phils. 2200

A superb place, By the Sea

A short, capacious one and half hour ride from the Balintawak Toll Plaza taking the road east will take you straight to another side of paradise --- Olongapo City! This fun city is the hub and delightful location of By The Sea Resort.

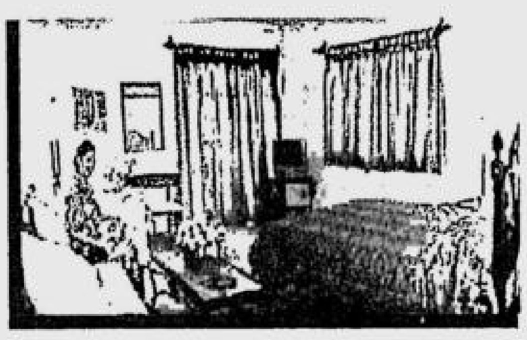
When in Olongapo City, all roads lead to By The Sea Resort. Nestled in the heart of the Beach Valley of the famous Subic Bay. By The Sea Resort's beauty is complimented by nature and the comforts of modern living alike. It is a most-sought after place by local and foreign tourists. Here you can frolic and play under the sun and sea with a magnificent view of the verdant mountains. The proximity of By The Sea to the other attractions of the place like Ocean Adventure, Zoobic Safari and its endless itinerary of activities like parasailing, jetskiing and other water sports adds entertainment to a most unforgettable stay.

Overlooking Subic Bay, By The Sea's Island Bar and Restaurant serves sumptuous and mouth-watering cuisine which comes hand-in-hand with sea foods and native dishes. The bar is tastefully decorated with a long line of top brand spirits extending an invitation to do so under a moon lit garden.

As you bask in gastronomic ecstasy and drink to quell that insatiable thirst, enjoy By The Sea's 47 air-conditioned rooms with homely facilities like cable TV, key telephone system, refrigerator and private bathrooms with hot and cold water. Each room is elegantly designed to suit the need for posh living.

By The Sea is also a place where memories that last a lifetime are created. Events such as weddings and baptismal are ideal to be held here. By The Sea provides catering services for seminars and conferences on its state of the art facilities on its ample function rooms that can accommodate 1,000 pax outdoors and 300 pax indoors.

By The Sea Resort is a sublime escape from the hassle and bustle of crowded Metro Manila. What is so divine about this place is the principle that you don't have to pay outlandish fees to achieve the good life!



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OLONGAPO

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Fax (047) 222-2718
Email: bythesea@greendot.com.ph
Website: www.bythesea.com.ph

People, Events & Products

Twelve Car Raffle Draw winners

IT'S been exciting weekends at the SM Supermalls since August, with one 1.2 Toyota Vios raffled off in its weekly Twelve Car Lucky Raffle Draw promotion.

Every P500 purchase at the SM Supermalls entitles one to a raffle coupon and a chance to win one of twelve Toyota Vios 1.2 cars.

So far, there have been 10 winners in the weekly draws. Two cars will be raffled off on Oct. 31 at SM City Bacoor and on Nov. 7 at SM City Davao. What does it take to be a winner? Here are what some of the lucky winners said:

Agnes Castro, a midwife from Quezon Institute, has pure luck on her side when she bought a bag worth P600 at SM City Sta. Mesa. She held one coupon, which she submitted on the last day for entries in the mall, but went on to win a car last October. "I was really lucky," she says. "It's the best gift for my family this Christmas." Castro's husband who works overseas is coming home to claim the car.

SM Supercenter Sucat winner Arnel Campos, on the other hand, had eight entries from buying clothes and groceries to the promotion. "SM has been good to me," says Arnel, a supervisor from Mizuho Corporate Bank. "I bought home a brand new car two weeks ago."

Ma. Lourdes Dango did some shopping at SM Southmall on the day she won. She would have ordinarily gone to SM City Bacoor, which is nearer her home, but decided to go to Southmall that day for a change of routine. This definitely changed her life. Malou had five entries from buying clothes and groceries that day. "I guess we sometimes have to make changes," she smiles. "I did and won a brand new car."

SM City Davao's Eddie Estribillio bought eyeglasses worth P4,000 and submitted eight entries to win a brand new car. Disbelief was the first reaction of this businessman when he received a call," but when I was sent a notice, I was very happy." He adds that he wants to "thank SM for this brand new car."

Other winners in the Twelve Car Lucky Draw promotion include Giovanni Santoalla from SM City Lucena, Erlinda Mangubat from SM City Cagayan de Oro, Desiderio Cosnumo of SM City Iloilo.

SM SOUTHMALL winner Ma. Lourdes Dango is being awarded a brand new 1.3 Toyota Vios car by SM's division head for marketing Roby Deceña.

BITS Clips

Halloween weekend at The Podium

THE PODIUM gets into the Halloween spirit this weekend with loads of spook-tacular fun, treats, and a mall-wide sale. It's a big treat - without the tricks - for Podium shoppers during the Halloween Special Weekend Sale, where they can get as much as 50 percent off from Oct. 29 to Nov. 1. Shop until the witching hour during its Halloween Midnight Special as the mall extends its shopping hours until 12 midnight. Great shopping continues from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Oct. 30 and 31 and from 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Nov. 1. Spook-tacular fun continues with the Halloween Kiddie Masquerade Party sponsored by Magnavision and presented by Samsung and Act II on Oct. 31 at 3 p.m. Well-loved characters like Stuart Little, Hellboy, Monster Rancher, Peter Pan, Barbie and Zoids will be there for the thrills, as well as magicians, jugglers and acrobats. Kids can come in their scariest best, go on trick or treating in the mall and have a chance to win exciting prizes in the Best in Costume contest.

12th Nat'l PR Congress

EMPHASIZING the importance of communication in governance, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo takes her Pulong Bayan, or public forum, to the 12th Annual Public Relations Congress today at the Manila Diamond Hotel in Roxas Blvd. Entitled "Communicating for the Public Good", the congress focuses on communication as a tool for meaningful governance. The two-day event brings together government, the private sector and the media into healthy dialogues on several issues under the theme: "Gobyerno, Negosyante at Mamamayan: Nagkakaintindihan Pa Ba Tayo?"

Weekends at Westgate

TAKE advantage of the best bargains in town and choose from the widest selection of apparel, food, accessories and other items for this gift-giving season only at Westgate Center's Market Greats. The bazaar will run from Oct. 28 to 31 and from Nov. 4 to 7. Kids will surely delight in the Trick or Treat Party, Westgate's special Halloween activity for the whole family. Sponsored by Congo Grille, it is slated on Oct. 31. Westgate Center is located at Commerce Avenue cor. Filinvest Avenue, Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. For inquiries, call 807-6729 or 809-5428.

Power+Faith+Image at the Ayala Museum

THE NEWLY opened Ayala Museum is having a guided tour today at 1:30 p.m. of the exhibition Power+Faith+Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th century by one of the curators, Ramon Villegas. The exhibition showcases the popular images produced by Philippine carvers for the ecclesiastical and domestic markets. The new Ayala Museum is located at the corner of Makati Avenue and Dela Rosa St., Makati City. The museum is open from Tuesdays to Fridays, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday to Sunday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. For inquiries, call Aprille Tijam at 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14.

Choral fest

PETALS of Hope Inc, a cancer support group will hold its first fundraising event for the benefit of cancer victims on Oct. 30, 6 p.m. at the Assembly Hall of VLI, Fort Bonifacio, Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila. It is a choral fest entitled 'The Musical Tones of Life' to be participated by different choirs and glee clubs. Guest performers are Gakushi and Out of the Box. Those who are interested to buy tickets or to extend help for this support group may contact 722-6445/722-6291 or Cynthia Sanchez at 0915-431-0945 or Juliet Cu at 0917-6675520.

KSearch's 5th year

KSEARCH Asia Consulting Inc, an executive search and recruitment firm, marks its 5th anniversary on Oct. 29. Joining the management and staff of KSearch in their celebration are a few of their clients and former employees. The special occasion will start off with a Mass to be held at its office premise, followed with cocktails and dinner at the penthouse in its office building in 139 Corporate Centre in Valero Street, Makati. KSearch also launches its newly revised global website, www.ksearchasia.com, which will feature a variety of information relevant to its clients and candidates, as well as the general viewers. For more information about KSearch, you may call 818-9492 loc. 338 or simply visit the website.

Bahala na...
Que sera sera
"I Can, I Must, I Will inspite of the Environment."

Management Association of the Philippines and SMART present
3rd MAP International CEO Conference
Conference Theme:
"Survive and Excel In Turbulent Times"
11 November 2004, Thursday
Rizal Ballroom, Makati Shangri-La

Speakers
Mr. TONY TAN CAKTIONG
President and CEO
Jollibee Foods Corporation
MAP "Management Man of the Year for 2002"
Ernst & Young "World Entrepreneur of the Year for 2004"

Mr. RICO HIZON
Broadcaster, British Broadcasting Corporation (Singapore)

Mr. ANUPAM PRAKASH
Asia Pacific Global Sourcing Leader
Hewitt Associates (India)

Mr. MARTIN P. LORENZO
Chair, Pancake House

Mr. CECILIO K. PEDRO
President
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Mr. JOAQUIN L. ARAMBULO
Senior Business Productivity Advisor
Microsoft Philippines

Mr. SIMON BERESFORD-WYLIE
Senior Vice President, Asia Pacific
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Mr. ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ
EVP and COO, Aboitiz Equity Ventures

Mr. ERRAMON I. ABOITIZ
EVP and COO, Aboitiz Equity Ventures

Mr. HENRY T. CO
President, Ford Motor Company Philippines

Dr. RICHARD S.WELLINS
Senior Vice President for Global Marketing and Business Development
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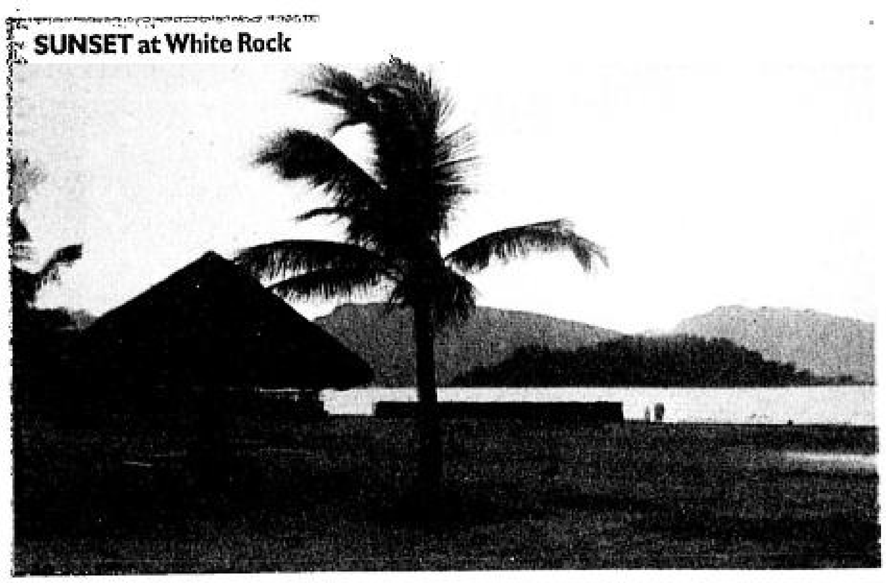
www.map.com.ph
2nd Floor, AIM Conference Center, Ayala Corporation Hall, Benavidez corner Trasierra Streets, Legaspi Village, Makati City, Philippines
This Conference is open to the public.

Twin destinations for fun, sun and sea

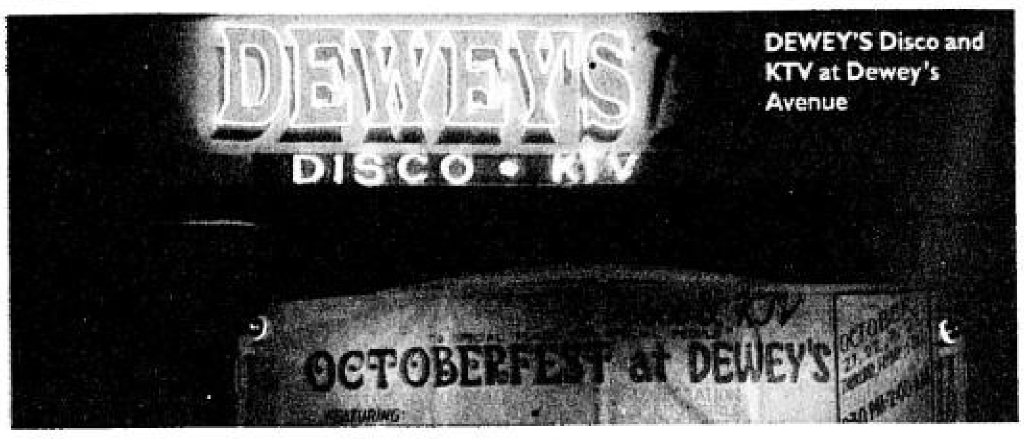
From page B13



SUNSET at White Rock

TOASTING the good life with Julia Son of Sibil

WITH Ms Jude Bartolome of Gerry's Grill



DEWEY'S Disco and KTV at Dewey's Avenue

from home. Highlighted by centralized air condition system, chic furnishing and appliances, the smell and comfort of home is never missing. Forest Hills and East Gate Village Resort are a community. Everything you required in your usual community can be found here, like a swimming pool, clubhouse, sports facilities, grocer and even a village café. Everything was done with big attention to details to facilitate a most unforgettable stay with family and friends.

Favorite wine and dine corners

Many claim that you may actually judge a place's character on how its people eat. Subic and Olongapo rate very high on these category.

Sam's Pizza by the main gate of the SBMA is perhaps offers the most mouth-watering pizza in town. This one is a true Olongapo original. It has been there for 28 years now. The secret of its longevity in the restaurant business is its ability to adapt and reinvent recipes that were both classics and trendy. Sam's currently introduced delectable rice meals on its already delicious menu. Sam's Pizza is not just another pizza shop, it is an institution, a virtual landmark on Magsaysay Avenue.

Pancake House Subic is a boon to innovative dining, pleasing both the eyes and palates. "The outlet was given much detail on its architecture to compliment the beautiful setting of Subic. High ceilings and chic interior designs with a lots of see-though glass walls were a concept added to Pancake House Subic, "says Paulette Joy See, Pancake House Subic's franchisee. Along with Pancake House's sumptuous food offering, it is an irresistible invitation to get a slice of the good life! Pancake House is more that just great pancakes, as a matter of fact, steaks such as Rib Eye, Sirloin and Tenderloin are most sought after items.

It is always a bundle of joy dining at my most favorite grill house, Gerry's. Undeniably delicious beyond the limits of the palates, eating at Gerry's seaside restaurant at Subic is an added factor to an all too perfect dining pleasure as gentle, salty breeze coming from the sea greets you merrily. This branch was Gerry Apolinario's first out of town venture. Gerry's Grill pioneered dining at Subic's Moon Bay Marina. Jude Bartolome, resident manager of Gerry's Subic served us delicious classics Sisig, Inihaw na Pusit and Gerry's Fried Chicken.

Cantina Mexicana within the complex of Papagayo Playa is a fresh discovery. Being adventurous when it comes to food, I've actually chewed a couple of giant "sili labuyo" served with my Pork Carnitos and Fish Buritos. With tons of nachos and beer to go by, the dare I've made to myself was rewarding - flavors just exploded on my tongue it put me into gastronomic cloud nine. Papagayo Playa is located on Barrio Baretto along the National Highway.

Nightlife was never absent on each Subic and Olongapo visit. It comes naturally and synonymous as breathing on these two places. Subic Hard Rock, Sibil Subic and Dewey Disco and KTV Bar are personal recommendations of the highest form. These places just know how to party! Subic Hard Rock has live performers that tour the entertainment circuits of Metro Manila and other big towns. Dewey Disco and KTV is every gentleman's corner that caters to an array of international clientele. Sibil is undeniably the queen of Moon Bay Marina when it comes to having a real good time. Ledge Dancing and Bikini Opens were legendary at this place.

Frenzied nights drown in dance music sound, Subic Hard Rock, Sibil, and Dewey's stand out from the rest. All sort of long night parties, you name it, it happens. These places are dedicated to those who dare to be wild. Stay up late, get involved and get crazy over lavish nights of merriment.

Hit the waters!

Subic and Olongapo's nature and urban offerings will never cease to captivate. The pristine seas and invigorating heat of the sun are for everyone to share and enjoy. Resorts, big and small abound within the areas of Subic and Olongapo. They will surely leave you still and breathless.

White Rock Beach Resort is a landmark feature. No one should miss this place. Seeing the sunset and dipping my toes on the waters, I stood and stared in silent lucidity and whispered, "Oh look what hath God has wrought!" I found myself at a lost for words seeing the beauty that transpired before me.

Garden View Resort is for the budget conscious traveler who wants to partake of the joy drawn from the sea, without boring a hole in your pocket. Here you can frolic and play to your heart's delight. Located on Barrio Barretto, economic rooms and delicious seafoods are available to everyone here.

Subic Yacht Club, By The Sea Resort Hotel and Scuba Shack Dive Center should be on your list of places to see and activities to do. Bhing Salazar, feisty diver and operations manager of Scuba Shack down by Moon Bay Marina extends her invitation to adventure by trying the sport of diving. Subic Yacht Club is a grand reason to see Subic. This is the good life served in the most exquisite manner. By The Sea Resort Hotel is a family friendly hotel at the shore of Olongapo. Service rating is high.

No ordinary offerings

Fun, sun and sea, true enough were not exclusively found on Subic and Olongapo. Places from the north to south of the country has these on their menu, but a close scrutiny on what lies beneath, we shall see that Subic and Olongapo definitely top the rest. Needless to say, people of this place have but an extra gene to explain the philosophy of how they became so friendly and accommodating in an unassuming way. The urge to achieve true fun and an everlasting zest for the sun and sea were inherent in them. This consummates into a brand uniquely Subic and Olongapo. The kind of service and luxuries they parade are tinged with character only true inhabitants can give and deliver.

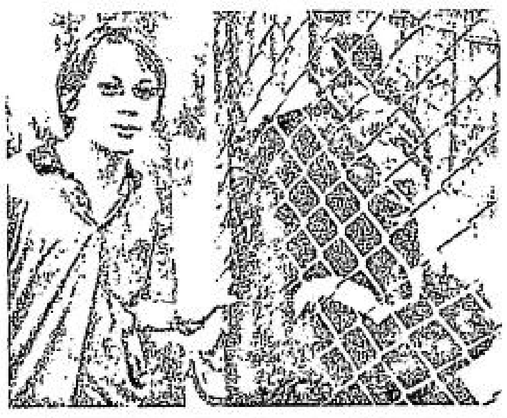
Every visit worries me, I am always tempted to stay a little longer.

> The urge to achieve true fun and an everlasting zest for the sun and sea were inherent in them. This consummates into a brand uniquely Subic and Olongapo

Zoobic Safari's amiable charm

SNAKING through the mountain roads of the SBMA, and having quite a few monkey as pedestrians, my travel to Zoobic Safari was rewarded by awesome display of nature in all its magnificence. The verdant and spacious Ilanin Forest is the location of Zoobic Safari. This is home to my most favorite cat in the world, the majestic tiger. Natasha and Vladimir, the latest addition to Zoobic Safari's growing tiger population were mere "kittens" the last time I saw them. Cuddly and playful, they were very friendly to guests, especially children who share their boundless energy.

Nicolas the bear was also a new encounter. Mischievous in a very playful way, Yogi Bear came into my mind. Nicolas actually loves to have his picture taken and pose with guests and I swore if I had my picnic basket with me he could have snatched it and ran away with it.



Barely on its soft opening process, the Zoobic Safari already has countless offerings waiting to be experienced. Amiable animals like Nicolas the bear, tiger cubs Natasha and Vladimir and scores of others were but a couple of its attractions aside from the "Safari Jeep Ride", Serpentarium and woodland zoo. It's friendly charm comes as natural as its setting.

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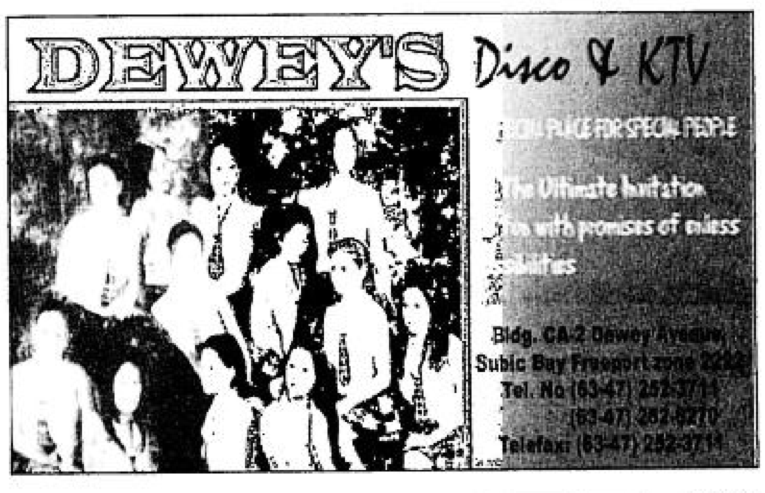
* Telephone Nos. (047) 223-3199
or 222-4214 (telefax)
* Email: subichardrock@yahoo.com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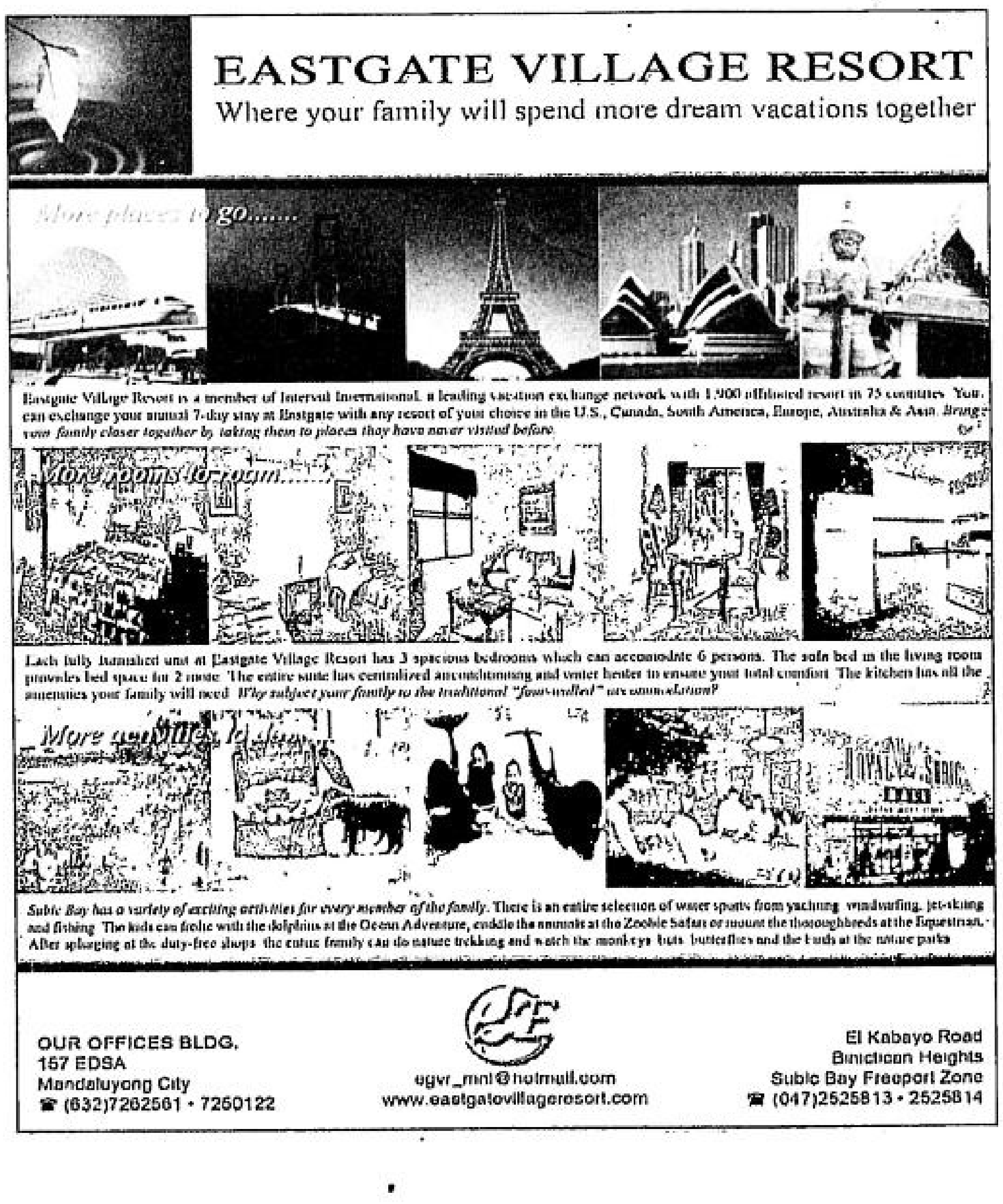
EASTGATE VILLAGE RESORT
Where your family will spend more dream vacations together

Eastgate Village Resort is a member of Interval International, a leading vacation exchange network with 1,900 affiliated resort in 75 countries. You can exchange your annual 7-day stay at Eastgate with any resort of your choice in the U.S., Canada, South America, Europe, Australia & Asia. *Bring your family closer together by taking them to places they have never visited before.*

Each fully furnished unit at Eastgate Village Resort has 3 spacious bedrooms which can accomodate 6 persons. The sofa bed in the living room provides bed space for 2 more. The entire suite has centralized airconditioning and water heater to ensure your total comfort. The kitchen has all the amenities your family will need. *Why subject your family to the traditional "four-walled" accommodation?*

Subic Bay has a variety of exciting activities for every member of the family. There is an entire selection of water sports from yachting, windsurfing, jet-skiing and fishing. The kids can frolic with the dolphins at the Ocean Adventure, cuddle the animals at the Zoobic Safari or mount the thoroughbreds at the Equestrian. After splurging at the duty-free shops the entire family can do nature trekking and watch the monkeys, bats, butterflies and the birds at the nature parks.
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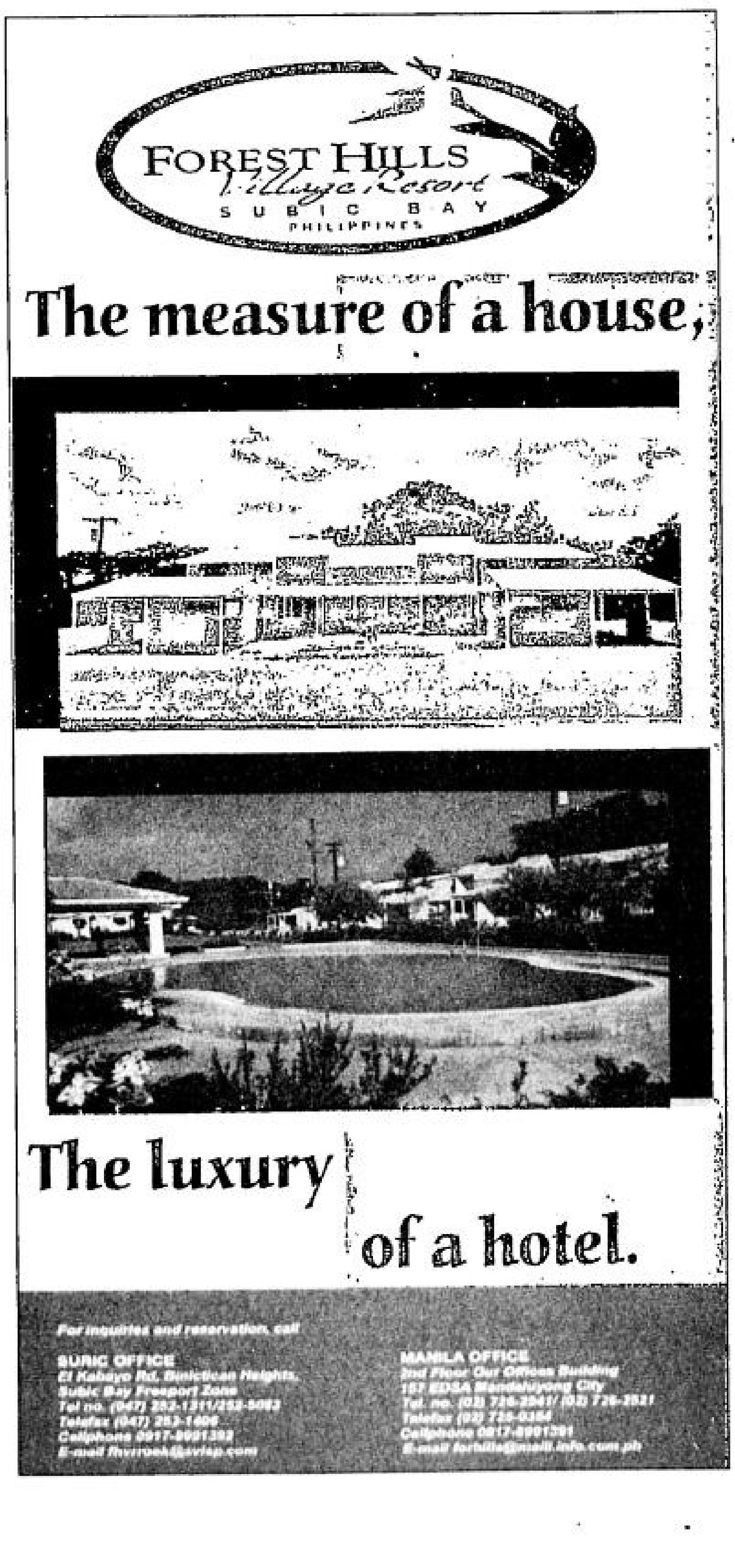
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Enjoy spacious living at a budget-friendly price

HAVE you ever wondered how nice it would be if your kids can grow in a peaceful environment where nature abound in every square inch of the community?

How about a home where every nook and cranny is utilized to provide more space, going as far as having a roofdeck to accommodate any family activity you can think of? Maybe even make it into another bedroom when the kids grow up and want a private space of their own?

Well, wonder no more because Filinvest Land Inc recently launched the Tree Series house models amidst the verdant greens of Crystal Aire.

The house blessing was officiated by Fr. Claro Sumage. It was attended by guests, buyers, brokers and Filinvest Land project team headed by Roberto Arcebal - project group head of Futura Value Homes Division; Rey Maribao - business development officer; Rowena Aguilar - business development assistant; Edgar Elon - sales officer.

The Tree Series models are expertly-built homes that comes with a roofdeck to provide more space for your family activities or for vertical expansion as your need arises or as much as your budget allows. You don't even have to move out during expansion as the roofdeck has its own staircase.

You have four attractive house models to choose from. Both Aspen and Walnut units have 157.3 sqm. usable floor area which is great for large or extended families. Molave has 83.2 sqm. usable floor area, while Narra has 50.6 sqm. usable floor area that is suited for families just starting out.

Aside from the roofdeck, the Tree Series models are also water-, fire- and termite-resistant because they are made from reinforced concrete shear walls and ceiling. Plus, they have painted and finished exteriors and interiors so moving in will surely be hassle free.

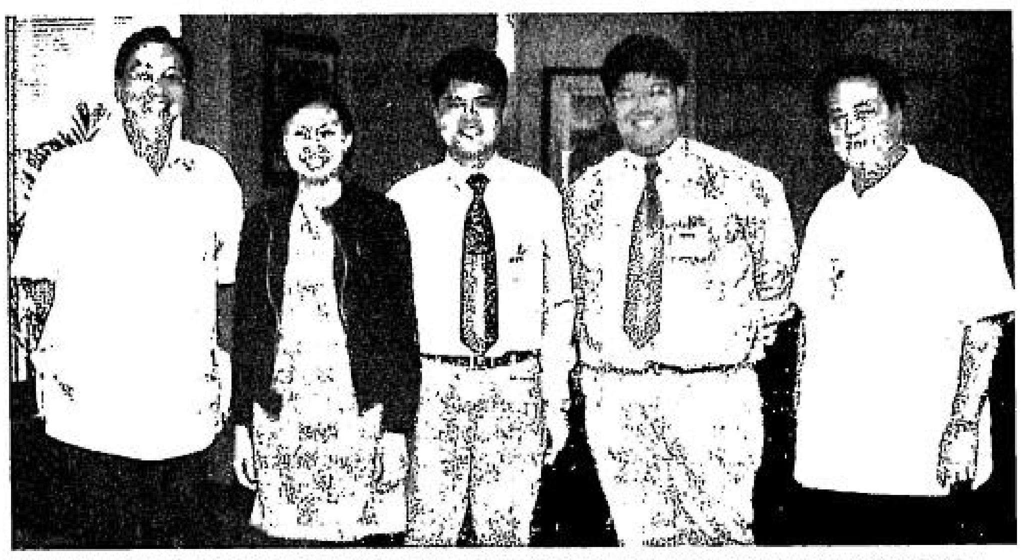
More importantly, the Tree Series homes inside Crystal Aire can be yours for as low as P7,000 monthly, applicable to Narra unit at 15 years bank financing.

Crystal Aire is located at Gen. Trias, Cavite and accessible to various commercial centers, schools and hospitals. You can also enjoy community amenities like the clubhouse, tree park, swimming pool, putting green, basketball court, jogging trail, tennis court and children's playground.

For details, please call Edgar Elon at 727-0431 local 136. or log on to www.filinvestland.com.

THE 25TH JOINT MEETING BETWEEN JPECC, PHILJECC

The 25th Joint Meeting between the Japan-Philippines Economic Cooperation Committee (JPECC) and the Philippines-Japan Economic Cooperation Committee (Philjecc) was participated in by (from left) JPECC chair and Mitsubishi chair Mikio Sasaki, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez, Trade Secretary Cesar Purisima, and Philjecc chair and Ayala Corp executive managing director Fernando Zobel de Ayala. They were joined by (standing, from left) incoming Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines Ryuichiro Yamazaki, Philjecc co-chair Tomas I. Alcantara, JPECC co-chair and Marubeni Corporation chair Tohru Tsuji, Philjecc co-chair and YKK Philippines Inc president Francis C. Laurel, Mitsui & Co. senior executive managing director Gempachiro Aihara, and Marubeni Phils Corp. president and CEO and Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Philippines Inc president Ryukichi Kawaguchi.

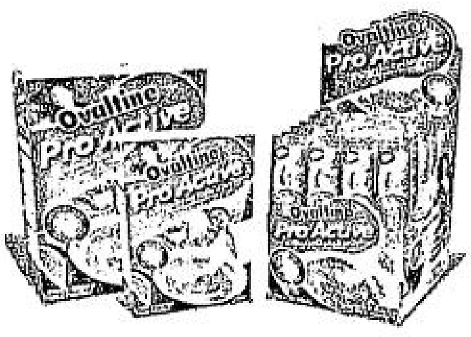


THREE YOUNG FILIPINOS QUALIFY FOR SHELL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

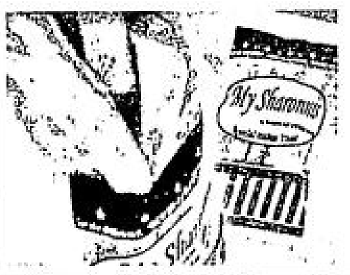
Janice Lao, Chester Dabalos, and Neil Ongkingco are three young Filipinos, who were recently accepted as successful candidates of the 2004-2005 Shell Centenary Chevening and Royal Dutch/Shell Centenary Scholarship Fund. They were among the 86 successful aspirants from 40 countries, who aspired for the Shell Centenary Scholarship fund, which is on its seventh year in the United Kingdom and on its first year in the Netherlands. The scholarship will cover tuition, accommodation, maintenance cost and a return airfare for the scholarship holder. The Shell Centenary Scholarship Fund (SCSF) offers postgraduate students from developing countries the opportunity to study in the UK and gain skills that will make a long-term contribution to the further development of their countries. In photo are (from left) Shell companies in the Philippines country chair Edgar Chua, Janice Lao, Chester Dabalos, Neil Ongkingco and Pilipinas Shell VP for corporate affairs Romy de Guzman during their visit to Shell House, Makati on Aug. 30.

ProductFILES

New Ovaltine ProActive



OVALTINE ProActive helps young adults be mentally and physically alert even beyond office hours. Its low fat and delicious light chocolate taste is an ideal everyday drink. Ovaltine ProActive contains the breakthrough Amino Pro-B ingredient - a unique combination of Vitamin B-complex that helps adults cope with stress and Amino Acids that helps build and restore tired muscles. It is formulated using the unique Ovaltine Mind-Enhancers and Body-Optimizers.



Taste the difference

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IDEAL MINDS SIGN UP WITH IBC 13

From the makers of multi-nominated shows like On Air, Single and The Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel, Ideal Minds Corporation has now ventured into a new endeavor that will change your regular Wednesday viewing habit. Last Sept. 24, Ideal Minds signed with IBC 13, a co-production deal that will feature 3 straight hours of non-stop innovative Ideal Minds shows every Wednesday night. Starting Jan. 5, 2005, 7 to 10 p.m., your Wednesdays will never be the same again as Ideal Minds' 5 new shows take primetime center stage. Shown in photo are Ideal Minds Corp general manager Chris Tan and IBC 13 president Philip Juico shaking hands after the agreement signing.

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It's all about doing good and telling it well - especially in government. This year's Congress highlights effective communication as a tool for meaningful governance. Representatives from the government and the private sector present best practices in communicating their initiatives and engaging stakeholders to reach common goals.

DAY 1

OPENING ROUND TABLE SESSION: Communicating the National Economic Reform Agenda

Mayor Jose "Lito" Atienza
Communications Director Silvestre Afable
Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye
Government Media Group Head Cerge Remonde
Noemi Saludo

COMMUNICATING THE 10-POINT ECONOMIC PROGRAM

A look at communication efforts that spur livelihood and productivity and engage the cooperation of stakeholders to meet common ideals.

Gary Teves
Wigberto Tañada

DAY 2

COMMUNICATING BASIC SOCIAL SERVICES

A look at campaigns that create awareness on and engage participation for social service initiatives and programs such as health, education, employment, and housing.

Secretary Manuel Dayrit
Francisco Duque III
Romero Federico Quimbo (represented by Margie Jorillo)
Luis Lorenzo

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BUSINESS

Business willing to help gov't raise revenue

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

BIG businesses are willing to chip into President Macapagal-Arroyo's efforts to shore up government revenue but they are wary of being milked dry by the high taxes on their operations that are being pushed in Congress.

A top executive of a leading telecommunication firm said that while big business recognized the urgency of boosting government revenue to avert a full-blown fiscal crisis, there was only so much that these firms could shell out without affecting their operations.

"Big business wants to help the President meet her target of raising government revenue by P80 billion a year but we certainly cannot afford to pay for the entire thing. The government has to look at other areas for more taxes," the telecommunication executive said.

Based on data provided by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the country's top 25 corporations paid P117.822 billion in taxes in 2003 or more than 20 percent of the P537 billion in total taxes collected for the same year.

Of the top 25 corporate taxpayers, the biggest were from the "sin products" industry accounting for P40 billion. These were San Miguel Corp. (P16.27 billion), Fortune Tobacco Corp. (P13.478 billion), Philip Morris (P8.343 billion), and La Tondeña Distillers Inc. (P2.876 billion).

The petroleum industry followed with P24.005 billion broken down as follows: Petron Corp. (P9.657 billion), Pilipinas Shell (P8.619 billion), and Caltex Philippines (P5.729 billion).

The third biggest was the telecommunication industry, accounting for P12.482 billion. The biggest taxpayers from this sector were Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (P5.226 billion), Smart (P4.51 billion), and Globe Telecoms (P2.746 billion).

These three industries are also the target of high taxes by the Arroyo administration's tax reform package—the indexation of sin taxes, the P2 per liter oil tax, and the 7-percent franchise tax on telecommunication firms.

A member of the Economic Managers Group, who requested anonymity, said the government should strike a middle ground between the need for more revenue and the big business' corporate profits to avoid "tax fatigue" where an industry's growth could be stunted by too many taxes.

The same EMG official cited the ongoing discussions in the House of Representatives where congressmen agreed to adopt a 20 percent across-the-board increase in the excise taxes on alcohol, cigarettes and tobacco products in the first year and another 3 percent in the second and third years. By the fourth year, the sin taxes would have to be pegged on the inflation rate in the previous two years.

The official said the 20 percent rate was a "positive step" in boosting revenues (even though it was below the 30 percent targeted by the Department of Finance) as long as it would ensure the quick passage of the bill and bolster investor confidence in the country.

But Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno flatly rejected the notion that big corporations were already experiencing "tax fatigue."

"I don't think they are fatigued because their industries have the lowest tax rates in the region," says Parayno.

PLDT implements new rate in Cebu

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE Long Telephone Distance Co. said it was adopting a single phone rate in the province of Cebu, even for calls from one town to another.

Prior to the adoption of the new rate scheme, Cebuanos pay a national long distance charge of P4 per minute for calls from one Cebu town to another.

All calls within Cebu are now considered local calls and are, therefore, no longer subject to NDD rates. The new rate applies even to calls from a PLDT subscriber to a subscriber of another phone company within the province, according to the telecom giant.

Of PLDT's 2.13 million fixed-line subscribers, 130,280 are in Cebu.

PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno said that if the new phone scheme would prove to be effective, the company might consider doing the same in other provinces.

Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia said this would mean savings for the people of Cebu who depend on telecommunications services for their businesses and other purposes.

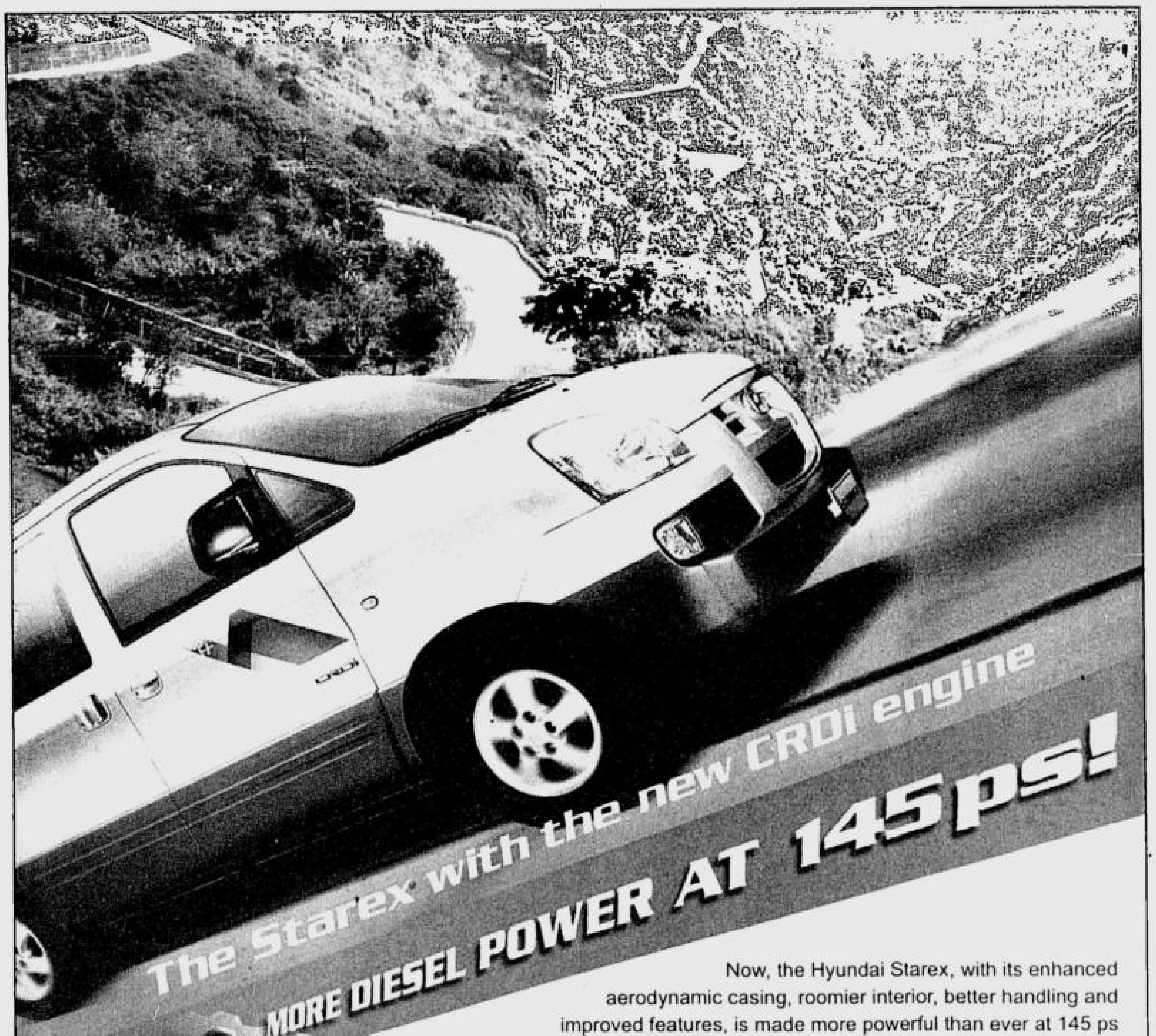
Nazareno said the "one province, one rate" program in Cebu was aimed at helping accelerate the province's transformation into an information and communications technology or ICT hub in the country and eventually in the region.

The removal of the long distance charges in Cebu is also expected to enhance the growth of businesses in the province and provide more opportunities for Cebuanos.

Covered by the new rate scheme are Talisay, Naga, Minglanilla, San Fernando, Sibonga, Carcar in the first district and Argao, Alcoy, Oslob, Samboan, Dalaguete, Boljoon, Santander, Ronda, Ginatilan, Alegria, Moalboal, Dumanjug, Malabuyoc, Badian, Alcantara in the second district.

From the third district, covered are the towns of Barili, Pinamungajan, Asturias, Toledo City, Lutopan, Aloguinsan, Tuburan, Balamban and from the fourth district are Tabuelan, San Remegio, Medellin, Daanbantayan, Santa Fe, Bantayan, Madridejos, Bogo, Tabogon.

Also, covered are Liloan, Carmen, Pilar, Sogod, Compostela, San Francisco, Catmon, Danao City, Borbon in the fifth district and Consolacion, Lapulapu City, Cordova, Mandaue City in the sixth district.



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GSMI Q3 earnings up

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GINEBRA San Miguel Inc. (GSMI) said its earnings from July to September grew 10.2 percent to P356.4 million, boosted by strong sales in northern and southern Philippines and soaring exports.

GSMI also said operating income jumped 15.5 percent to P579 million.

Sales volume grew 12.2 percent, raising the company's third-quarter net sales revenue by 14.4 percent to P2.93 billion, from P2.56 billion last year.

As of Sept. 30 this year, GSMI, the hard liquor subsidiary of San Miguel Corp. (SMC), already surpassed its nine-month net income last year by 5 percent.

The company posted a net income of P1.31 billion from January to September this year, up from P1.25 billion in the same nine-month period last year.

Operating income as of Sept 30 was up 7.2 percent to P2.04 billion, while net sales revenue stood at P8.97 billion from P8.6 billion year-on-year.

Year-to-date export volume exceeded last year's level by 782 percent.

SMC earlier said it would build a P1.8-billion alcohol distillery in Mindanao and expand its existing distillery in Negros Occidental to meet growing demand for GSMI's products both here and abroad.

RFM sells stake in Iglo

RFM Corp. is selling its 70-percent stake in a local cold storage firm to its Malaysian partner Iglo International Ltd. for about P105 million, sources told the INQUIRER.

The sale will allow RFM to raise additional funds for its branded food and beverage business.

RFM disclosed to the exchange yesterday that it was selling its entire holdings in Integrated Global Low Temperature Operations Phils. Inc. (Iglo) to Iglo International.

The sale will make Iglo 100-percent owned by the Malaysian partner.

The proposed sale is expected to be completed in 60 days.

Iglo has a cold storage logistics facility in Pasig servicing the cold storage requirement of Selecta Walls Inc., RFM's investment in the ice cream business.

RFM Corp. recorded a profit of P15 million from April to June this year, a turnaround from the P65 million in losses during the second quarter last year. Sales for the quarter grew 8.8 percent to P1.4 billion while operating income was at P73 million, much better than an operating loss of P32 million in the same period last year.

"We are beginning to see the first fruits of our investments in brand building even as we tighten up on our product supply costs and operating expenses," Jose A. Concepcion III, RFM president and chief executive officer, said in a statement.

In the first half of the year, however, the company recorded a net loss of P15 million, lower than its loss of P98 million in the same period last year. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

MORE October events /D1

LIFESTYLE

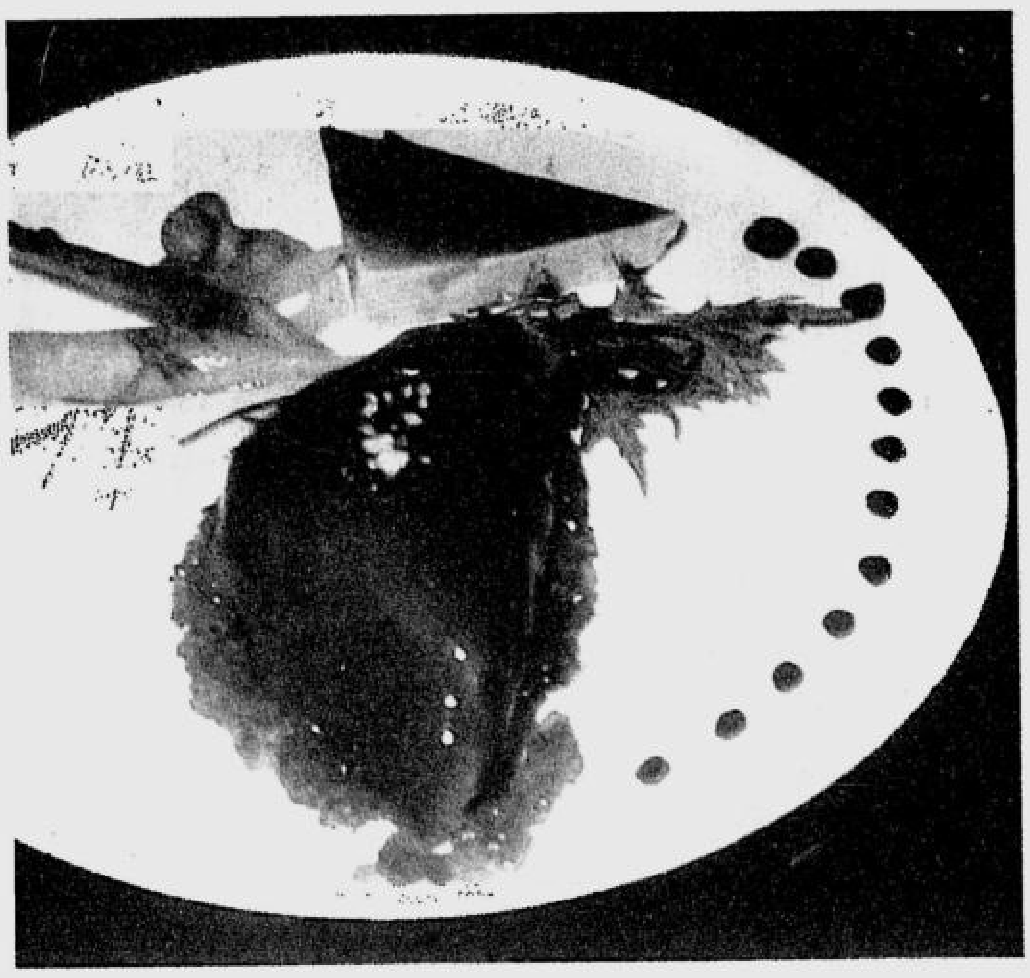
sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

Book the chef when you book the flight

Things are looking up for the flying gourmet who takes Singapore Airlines



CHEF Georges Blanc's creation—wild pigeon and *foie gras* in port wine jelly—looks too good to eat!

By Mina Elechicon
Contributor

"READ the menu and savor the moment. Take time and contemplate the creative artistry of some of the world's greatest chefs."

Are they kidding? On most flights, reading the menu (if indeed there was one at all) would probably not interest most flyers. Airline food has such a bad reputation that few bother to even hope the menu's hype is real.

But times are changing. A recent industry survey by CNN showed that a third of today's frequent flyers ranked food as the number one reason they choose an airline. And half said they would pay more for better cuisine!

Creative menus

Singapore Airlines (SIA) is miles ahead in the business of transforming airline cuisine. Back in September 1998, it pioneered its World Gourmet Cuisine program, serving passengers in all classes (First, Raffles and Economy) a selection of signature dishes specially created by a panel of international culinary experts. The aim was "to transform the overall dining experience of passengers by providing exciting, innovative and delightful meals."

SIA has taken this food and beverage program very seriously and changes menus quarterly. Its International Culinary Panel (ICP) is made up of eight top-rated chefs. "The ICP is a constantly evolving body," said SIA's senior vice president for product and services Yap Kim Wah.

Eight wonders of the world

At a special ICP media event held recently at The Grand Hyatt in Singapore, the media met world-renowned chefs Alfred Portale, Georges Blanc, Gordon Ramsey, Nancy Oakes, Yeung Koon Yat, Yoshihiro Murata, Matthew Moran and Satish Arora.

The eight presented a display of their signature dishes, served up as you would see it on SIA flights.

We were brought to the hotel's kitchens to watch these master chefs prepare their dishes for that evening's gala ICP dinner. The atmosphere there was hushed, reverent. Even the Hyatt and the Singaporean in-flight catering chefs were awed by the presence of these greats; some had their digital cameras out, clicking away as the chefs cut, stirred and poured.

The ICP gala dinner began at 6:30 p.m. and lasted over five hours because it was an eight-course degustation meal! Square black glass-topped tables were elegantly set with white candle blocks and bouquets of red roses on black vases.

The eight culinary geniuses sat at different tables, rotating positions after every course. We got to talk with each of the chefs, catch a glimpse of their varied personalities, hear their first-hand views of what it takes to offer tantalizing dishes on the plane.

"We continue to learn," said

BOOK/ C2

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2) November 6, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - MUFFINS-MUFFINS - P2,500. Cinnamon-Crunch Sweet Potato, Onion & Shallots, Country AppleSauce, Choco Chip, Carrot Nut, Banana Walnut Muffins. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 4, 2004
3) November 8-11, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - ADVANCE GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD- P10,500. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 6-9, 2004
4) November 10, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500. Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin with Designs, Swags & Ribbons, Non-Stick Boards with Flowers & Veiners & Quilting. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 8, 2004
5) November 13, 2004/ 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P2,500. Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, ChocoNut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 11, 2004
6) November 15-18, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P12,500. (Inclusive of ingredients) 30 recipes of basic cakes, breads, rolls, pies, pastries & cookies. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 20-23, 2004
7) November 15-18, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES with cold porcelain recipe - P4,500. (Each set is lesson covered for one day)
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9) November 20, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - FESTIVE COOKIES - P3,000. Choco Rounds, Spiced Fruits & Nuts, Banana, Pecan, Carrot, Choco, Apple & Oatmeal Cookies. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 18, 2004
10) November 22-26,2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500. Learn to make 30 kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing and decoration. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 13-17, 2004
11) November 27, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 12:00 NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P2,500. Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for diabeties. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 23, 2004
12) November 12, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - TAPAS - P2,500. Spanish Omelette, Chorizo Empenadas, Fish Pastries, Spicy Shrimp & Scallop Croquettes, Potato & Ham Croquettes, Ensaladilla, Seafood croquettes, Pescado frito, Albondigas, Ensalada de pollo & Mallocan Pizza. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 10, 2004
13) November 19, 2004 / 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM - EDIBLE GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P2,000. NEXT SCHED: Dec. 17, 2004

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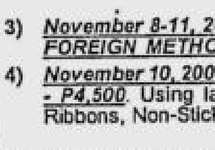

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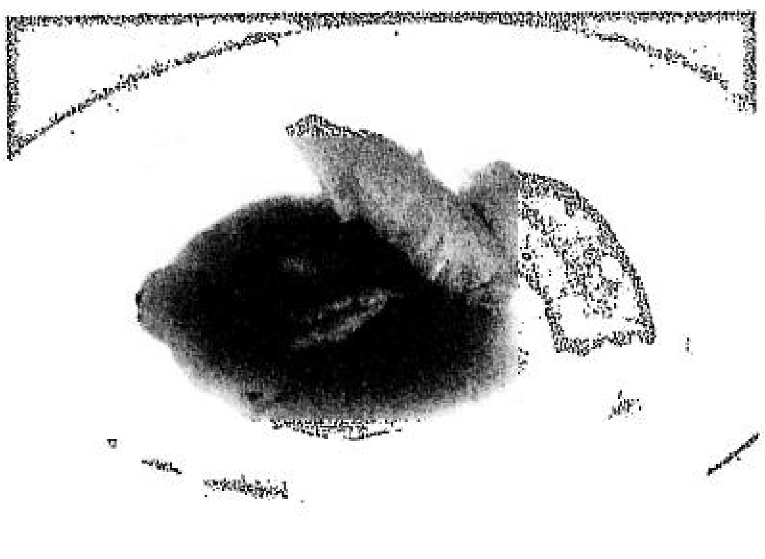


CHEF Yeung Koon Yat's signature dish—braised dried Japanese abalone with *kailan* in superior sauce. Simple, unpretentious and oh so tender

THIS unique plate holds chef Nancy Oakes' delicious duck breast stuffed with porcini mushrooms on baby spinach salad.

THE VARIOUS dishes created by the ICP that are now available in SIA flights

Book the chef when you book the flight

From page C1

Portale, who is executive chef and co-owner, Gotham Bar and Girl, New York City, as dining at higher altitudes continued to change. Asked what he remembers as the best meal on a plane, he commented, "Singapore Airlines' food is certainly very good. Our figures talk, we're far ahead of the competition!"

At the ICP dinner, French chef and winemaker Blanc of Vonnas, France, autographed my copy of the menu with his famous chicken signature that "is the only chicken deserving the *appellation controllee* like the best wines." Blanc has been with ICP since 1998, and to him the spirit of the dish is most important. The cooking method and freshness of the ingredients make for good sauces.

"The essence of my cooking is that it should prepare you for get-up-and-go, and not going to bed for three days afterwards," said Ramsey, proprietor and head chef of the restaurant bearing his name in Chelsea, England.

Oakes, proprietor and executive chef of Boulevard Restaurant in San Francisco, did not agree that airlines should serve snack boxes instead of hot meals. "The challenge is in economy class. How to make it an experience and provide flexibility of timing and answer nutrition concerns in all meals," she noted. She would like to translate Western food into small plates, much like Spanish *tapas*, put together in one tray "to amuse" the passenger.

For the ICP dinner, Yeung Koon Yat, proprietor, manager and head chef of Forum Restaurant in Hong Kong hand-carried the abalones from Japan. He prefers rich and elaborate Cantonese cuisine and uses the clay pot to preserve the original taste of his ingredients. The honor he treasured most, he said, was the Gold Medal presented by the Club Des Chefs des Chefs in 1996, since he is one of only three people in the world who have received it.

To deliver an authentic Kaiseki experience, Murata, proprietor and head chef of Kikunoi and Roan Kikunoi in Kyoto, emphasizes seasonality of ingredients, close attention to the flavor, texture, aroma and visual composition of his food. He's not afraid to experiment and draws inspiration from Western dishes.

Moran, proprietor and head chef of Aria in Sydney, has been with the ICP for one-and-a-half years. "I love doing this for SIA. It's important for us to put our names on quality." Asked what the new trends in food are, he said that "it is produce-driven. What is new is what evolves, like the Kingfish Hiramasu, an excellent fish, oily, but like tuna." In 1995, he stayed 10 days at Hotel InterContinental in Makati, enjoyed our cockfights and went out of town to visit the hot springs.

Arora, director of food production for India's Taj Group of Hotels, envisions serving airline food on a *thali* made of stainless steel or gold plated, introducing traditional Indian flavors but with a modern presentation and evolving more ethnic dishes that also reflect contemporary health preferences.

We progressed slowly through each course, relishing each bite, taking in the nuances of flavors and gushing at the delightful presentations (like the unique plate used by Oakes for her stuffed duck breast with porcini mushroom). And naturally, each course was complemented by a sampling of the finest wines served in First Class: a Dom Pérignon 1996, Domaine Laroche Chablis Premier Cru 1999, or a Chateau Pichon Longueville Grand Cru Classe Paullac 1997.

Just desserts

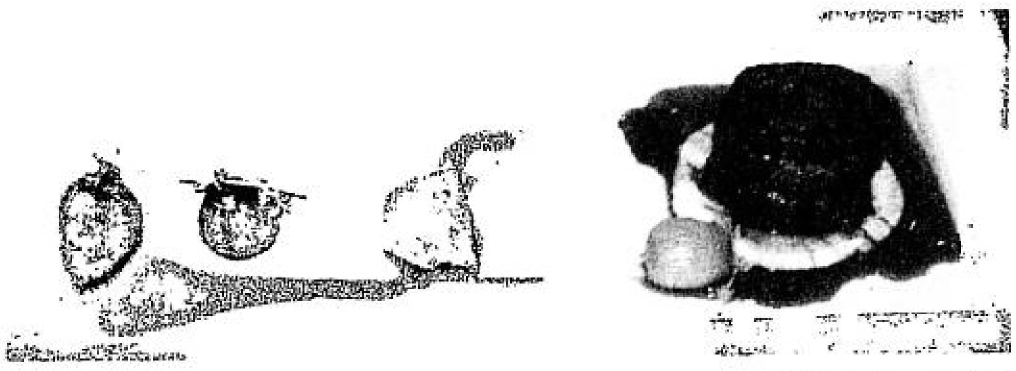
By the sixth course though, we were ready to throw in the towel; we'd not been trained for so much gustatory action! But just when we thought it was all over, we were led to still another room for the dessert buffet.

This was a visual highlight—the darkened room had subtle spotlights focused on huge blocks of ice that held hundreds of gorgeous fruit sherbets, pretty cakes and pastries (yes, some were *durian* flavored!). We had to make more space for these sensational desserts, accompanied by sips of Warre's 20-year-old Tawny with our coffee.

I've tasted the creative artistry of some of the world's greatest chefs, and it was truly unforgettable. The amazing thing is that this same fine dining experience can be shared by passengers on all three flight classes of Singapore Airlines. So the next time I'm seated on a plane, I will definitely "read the menu and savor the moment."

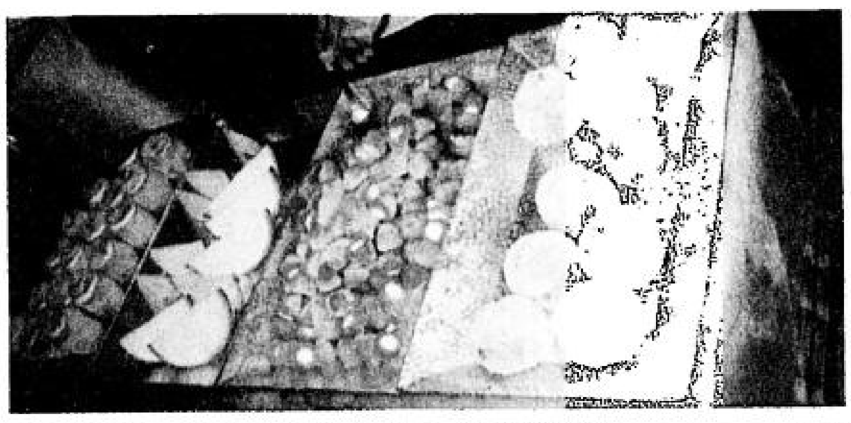
CHEF Gordon Ramsey and the author

ROAST wild salmon, fennel confit, roma tomato and black olive oil, lemon basil emulsion—chef Alfred Portale's example of New American Cuisine



A TANGY vegetarian platter by chef Satish Arora, the finale of the ICP degustation dinner

AT SIA kitchen's tray assembly line, an all-women crew put together the food components that comprise meals for all classes.



FROZEN ice in fruits—you can't possibly pass up these sherbets of guava, rock melon, strawberries, peaches and durians. They're so gorgeous!

CHEFS Yoshihiro Murata, Oakes, Arora and Blanc

CHEFS Koon Yat and Portale wait for the media people's questions.

GUYITO WILD HUNT

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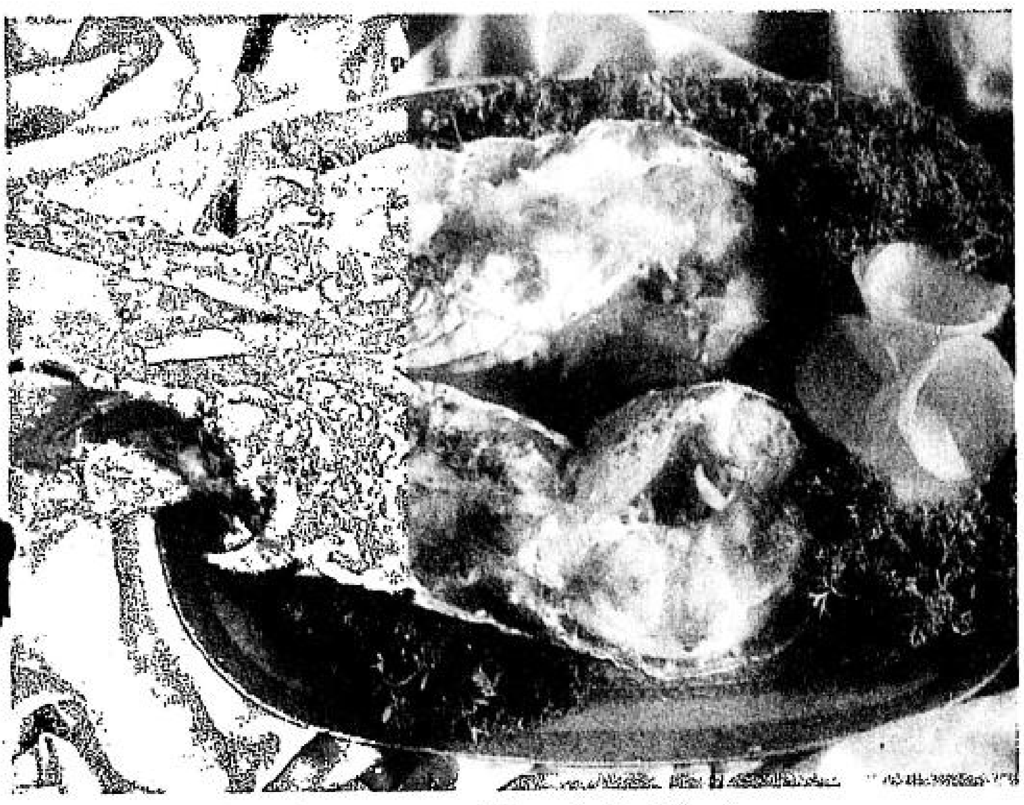

LOBSTER grilled in lemon butter sauce available at Seafood Wharf

CAFFE Puccini offers coffee blends like espresso, doppio, ristretto, lungo, macchiato, corretto, con panna, caffe freddo, caffe latte, latte macchiato, cappuccino, cappuccino scuro, cappuccino chiaro and cappuccino fredo. Caffe Puccini is located at unit 12, Fort Strip, Global City, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Call 8163055.

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Seafood galore

DINING OUT

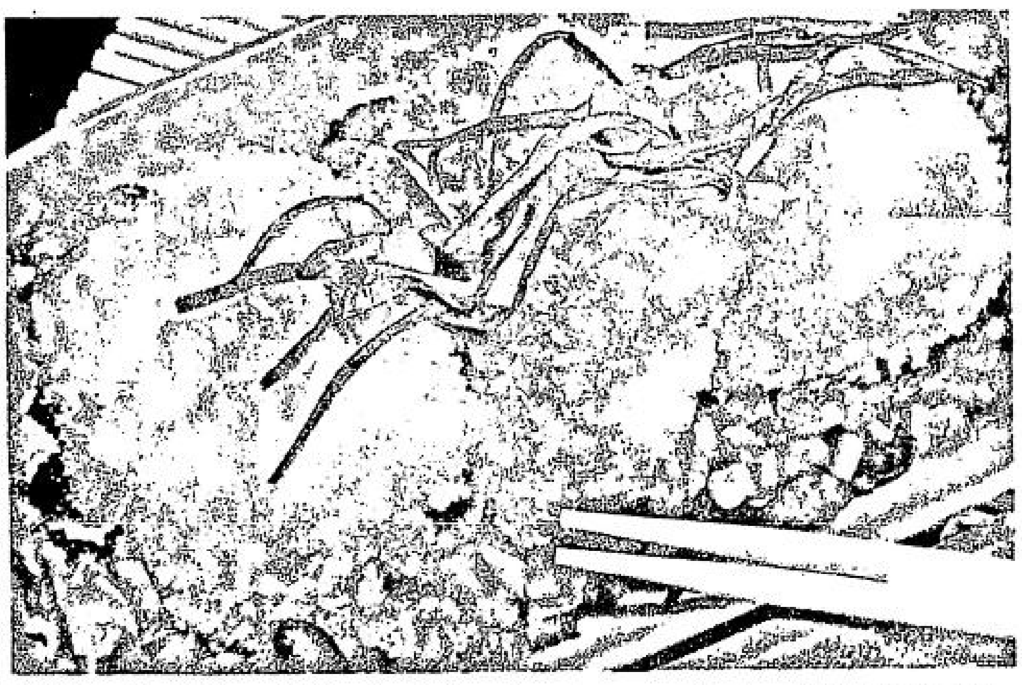
SEAFOOD Wharf Restaurant features Steamed Lapu-Lapu in soy sauce, Sea Mantis sautéed in chili sauce and Lobster grilled in lemon butter sauce this month. The restaurant is located at the Old Army and Navy complex, T.M. Kalaw Avenue, Rizal Park, Ermita, Manila. Call 4005066.

ILANG ILANG Restaurant at 551 Ilang Ilang Street, Binondo, Manila offers more than 200 entries of authentic Chinese dishes. House specialties include Rellenong Hipon, Lomi, Steamed Taro Cake with Crab Meat, Kikiam, Braised Pork Stew (Hong Ma), Stuffed Eight Treasure Chicken, Deep Fried Tender Juicy Pigeon, Braised Chicken Feet, Atay con Bawang and Glutinous Flour Rings. The restaurant also serves different healthy meals including rice toppings. For budget-conscious customers, it offers Lunch Combo meal consisting of two main courses, rice and a drink. The restaurant is open from 8 a.m.-11 p.m. Delivery service from 9 a.m.-10:45 p.m. Call 2423266/2419297 to 98 or fax 2449016.

EDSA Shangri-La's Summer Palace presents the Abalone Festival until Oct. 31. This seafood is cooked double-boiled whole with chicken, sautéed and shredded with bean sprouts, braised whole abalone with vegetables, sliced with fresh bean curd stick in oyster sauce and sliced unicorn style. Call 6347373.

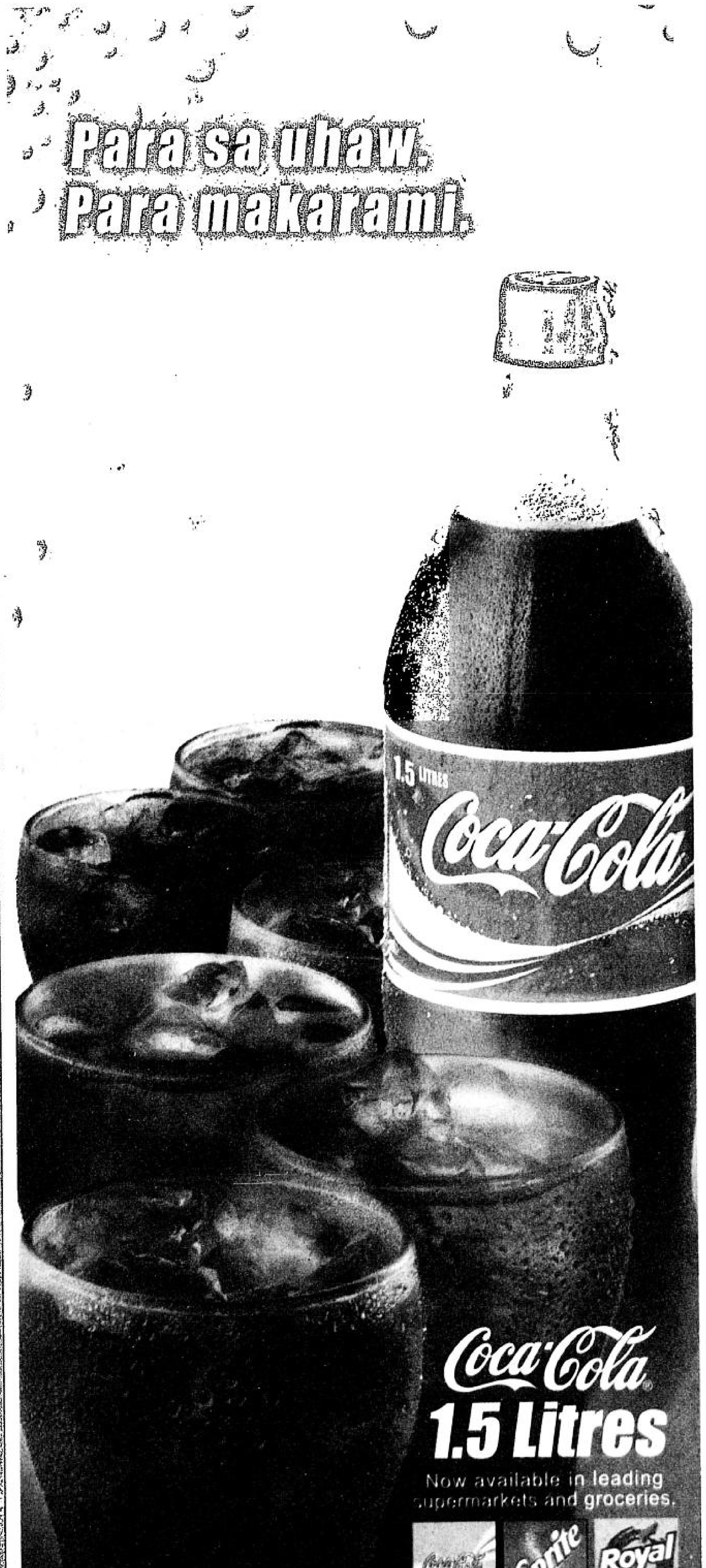
THE HERITAGE Hotel Manila presents a buffet spread of international cuisine. Featured are Pasta Ravioli, Roast Lamb in Mint Sauce, Beef Osso Bucco, Baked Mixed Seafood Thermidor, Steamed Fish Fillet with supreme soy sauce, Thai-style Fried Crab. Call 8548888.

CHILI'S Grill and Bar Restaurant offers steaks, salads, burgers, wraps, fajitas, desserts and mixed drinks. Chili's is at Greenbelt, Makati; Northeast Greenhills; and Tomas Morato, QC.



KITARO offers Rainbow Maki made of salmon, tuna, tamago and kani; and Tofu Steku, three pieces of breaded tofu with vegetable and mushroom sauce until Oct. 31.

HALLOWEEN MIDNIGHT SPECIAL
SPECIAL PROMOS AND DISCOUNTS!
Shop and Save Up To 12 Midnight Oct. 29, 2004
Enjoy MORE of The Halloween Specials!
Oct. 30 to 31 - 10am to 10pm
Nov. 1 - 12nn to 10pm
On selected items at participating stores.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-739 Series of 2004
THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center



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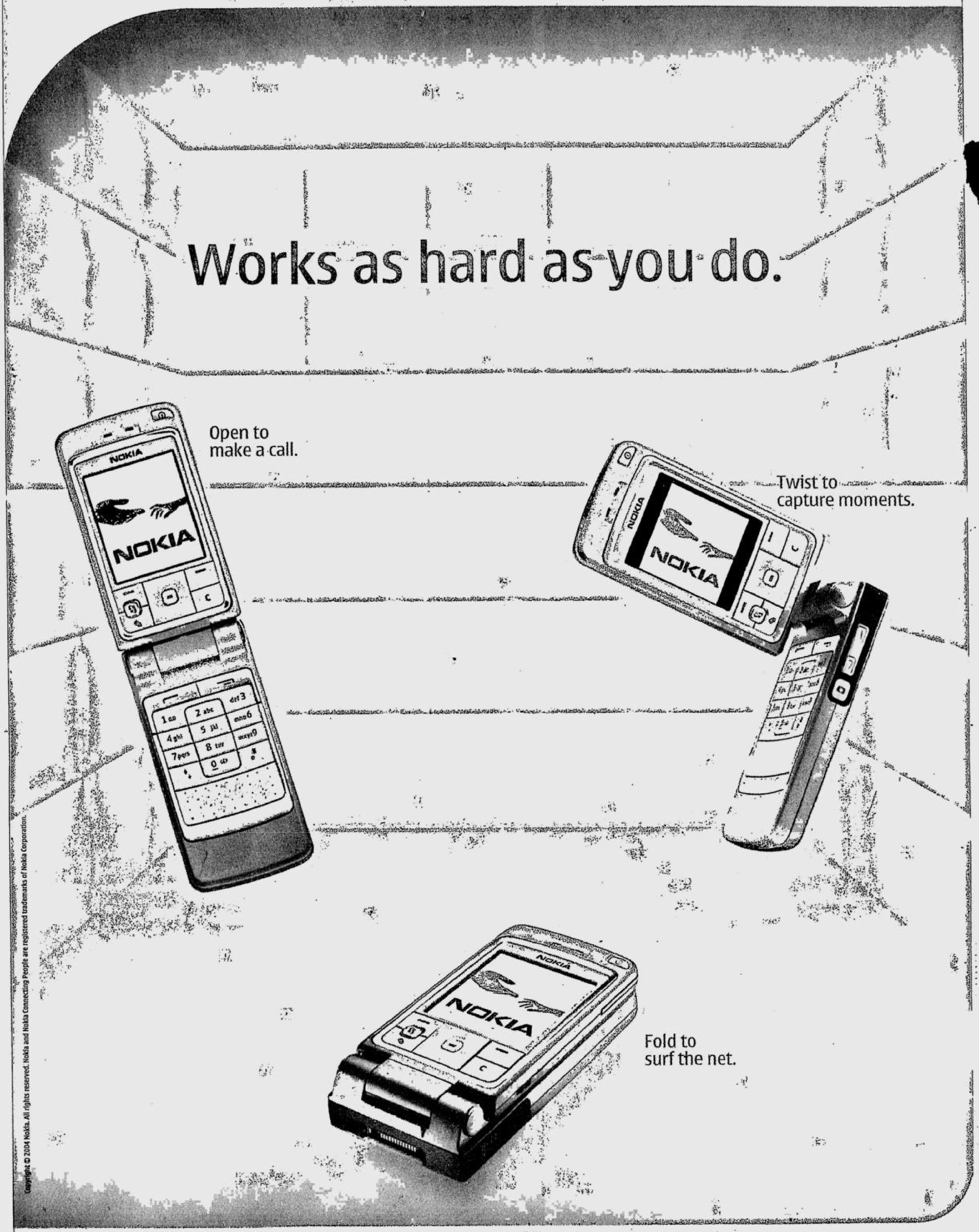

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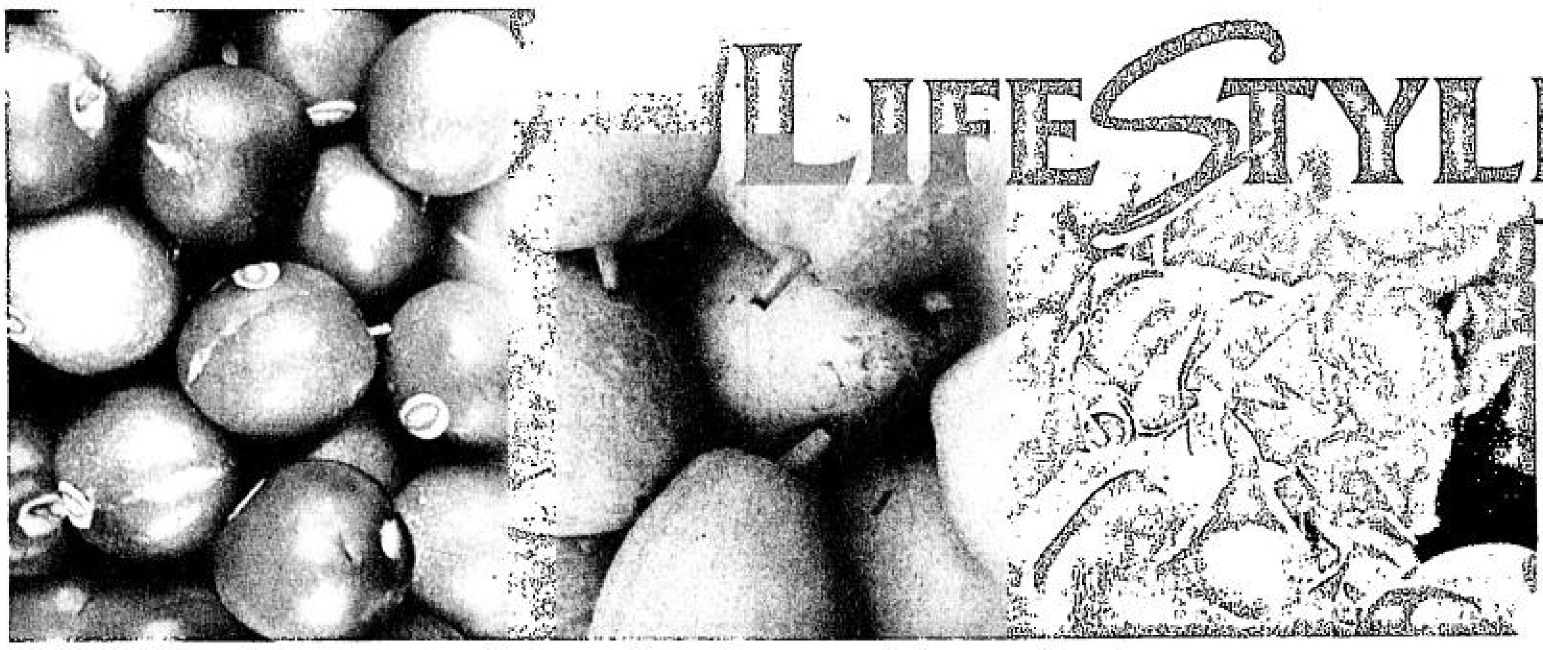

CLAUDINE Manggassing is the person to call for imported fruits, plums, pears and others, as well as nuts.

October fetes 2

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

ON OCT. 10, my favorite cousin in-law, Deoji Villadolid, and my Tita Charito celebrated their birthdays at Mama Rosa. I couldn't recall having a meal there and being disappointed.

Food's great! Sinigang na Corned Beef, Fish Roe Noodles with Shiitake Mushrooms, Lechon Kawali with Kalabasa Sauce... I am eagerly awaiting the launch of their Sinigang Bar. A sure feast for the senses, complete with all the little nifty gadgets for the extra touches.

Tiki Dula Laurel and her daughter, chef Golda, never cease to amaze me with their creativity. They represented the Philippines in the food expo in Japan where Filipino/Mama Rosa products were used as ingredients for sushi. They came up with concoctions such as: *bagoong* with *mangga*, crabfat, fishroe and *dulong*. Mama Rosa Timog, catering: 9251365.

Photo shoot

Oct. 12—Went out on a photo shoot for my book. Among the places I visited was the newly opened Terry's Deli at The Podium. I was thoroughly impressed by the whole set up and was especially dumbfounded by the biggest collection of dry pasta in all hues, cuts and flavors imaginable—from whole wheat spaghetti to squid ink tagliatelle to three- and five-color farfalle, mushroom- and truffle-flavored pasta to chocolate penne.

I saw Fromage Frais (fresh curd cheese from France) and Crème Fraîche, flown in from France weekly. Equally impressive are the choices of *chorizos*, *jamons* and *quesos* from Spain! A major discovery was the Schott Diva Line of bordeaux, burgundy, rioja, beaujolais, champagne and sherry glasses. The glasses are beautiful, reasonable and sturdy. Grace Ricafort, Terry's manager, banged the glass on the shelf's edge to prove it. Terry's is at the lower ground floor, The Podium, 6385725/26.

Confectionery supplies

Oct. 13—Cake decorator Melissa Lim, a student of mine and owner of Cake World and Kitchen Works, is the person to call for cake decorating and confectionery supplies. She gave me the number of Claudine Manggassing, importer of fresh blueberries, raspberry, strawberries, figs, California plums, dates, persimmons, plums, royal pears, sultanas and pistachios roasted in lemon, in rock salt, saffron etc...

That same day I met with Rosie, the *modista* who worked with Boysie Villavicencio. If you

OCTOBER/ D3

Gourmet Classes with Chef Dennis Hipolito
#137 9th Street corner Balete Drive, New Manila, Quezon City
About Chef Dennis: Dean's List graduate of the Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, NY/Food Stylist/* Owner of Joconde Cakes/* Took over classes from the Famed Gourmet, Maur Aquino Lichauco in New Manila/*Trained under the tutelage of World Pastry Cup Champion En Ming Hsu of the Ritz Carlton Chicago (a Four Seasons Hotel), Dan Budd of Park Avenue Café Chicago, Cake Stylist Betty Van Norstrand, Food Stylist Dolores Custer and other instructors in the Philippines
November 6, 2004: SINFUL CHRISTMAS GOODIES (Perfect for Gift Giving) NEW CLASS Golden Citrus Almond Cake, Chocolate and Cherry Fruitcake, Double Chocolate Mound Cookies, Rugelach Butter Bars, Cherry and Almond Loaf Cake-P1600
November 13, 2004: HOLIDAY GIFTS (Irresistible Gifts for the Holidays) Buko Pie, Cassava Bibingka, Lemon Bars, Ube Macapuno Streusel Bars, Updated Concord Cake-P1600
November 20, 2004: BARS, BARS, AND MORE BARS 3 (Easy Bars for Christmas Gifts) NEW CLASS Caramel Pecan Bars on Oatmeal Butter Crust, Cherry Date and Walnut Bars, Chocolate and Fruit Granola Bars, Chocolate and Nut Bars, Triple Chocolate Cherry Brownies-P1600
November 27, 2004: CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAYS (More Sinful Goodies for the Holidays) Brown Sugar and Maple Banana Bread, Crumb Cake Blueberry Squares, Fantastic Pull Out Bread, Luau Upside Down Cake, Mocha Java Pecan Pie -P1600
*CLASSES ARE: 1:00PM-4:30PM. (Limited Seats Available)
*Classes include: Ingredients, Recipe Hand Outs, and Product Shares.
*For Inquiries and Reservations: Please call or text 0917-8486656 or email us at gourmetpastry@aol.com. LOOK for GIRARD or YVETTE.
*CLASSES RESUME IN FEBRUARY, 2005

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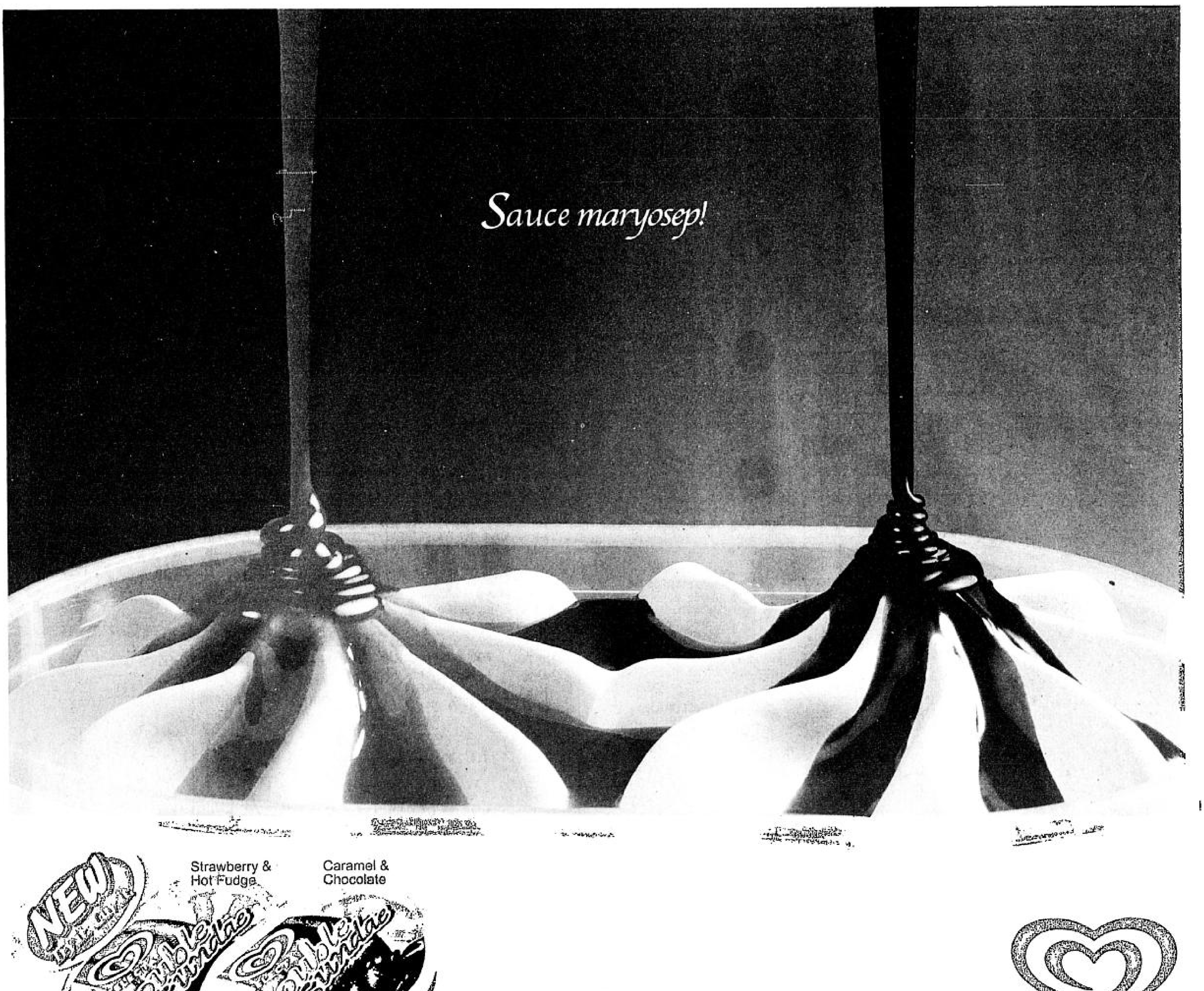
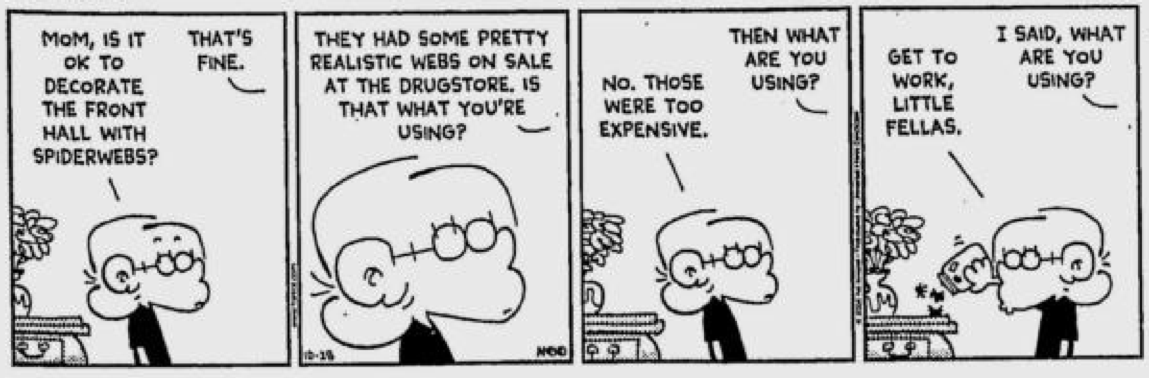
WHAT'S ON AT ROBINSONS
No Tricks All Treats! Halloween Celebration
Trick or Treat and Best in Halloween Costume Contest
For kids 4-12 years old. Registration starts at 11am
Activity Area of participating malls
Your favorite Starstruck Kids will also be there!
Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Metro East • Robinsons Novaliches
Robinsons Place Imus • Robinsons Place Dasmariñas • Robinsons Place Lipa
Robinsons Cainta Junction • Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños
Robinsons Place Sta. Rosa • Robinsons Place Angeles
Robinsons Starmills Pampanga
a world to discover
Reach into your bag of tricks and don your fanciest Halloween costume. A ton of treats for the young and young at heart this October 30.
ROBINSONS Malls
www.robinsonsmalls.com



Sauce maryosep!
NEW Double Sundae
Strawberry & Hot Fudge
Caramel & Chocolate
Sa halagang P99 lang, umaapaw ang chocolate, caramel at strawberry sauce sa pagkatakam-takam na double sundae!
SELECTA

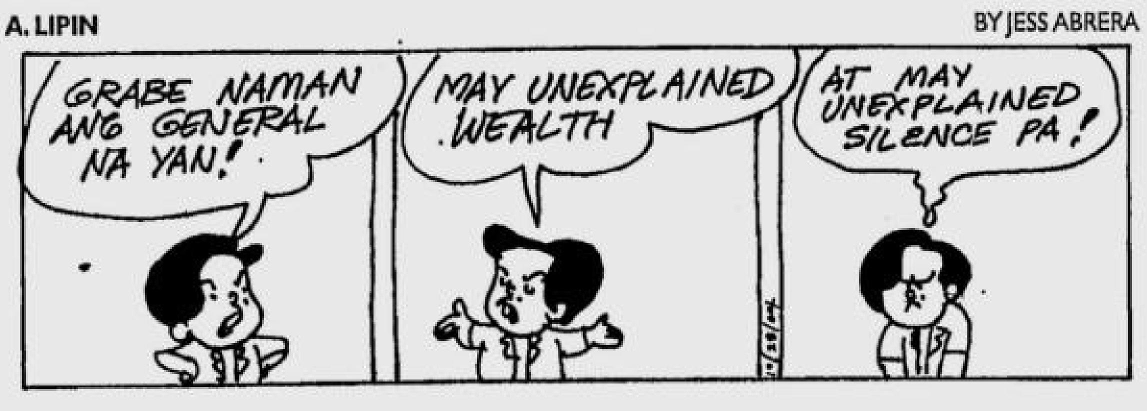
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MOM, IS IT OK TO DECORATE THE FRONT HALL WITH SPIDERWEBS?
THAT'S FINE.
THEY HAD SOME PRETTY REALISTIC WEBS ON SALE AT THE DRUGSTORE. IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE USING?
NO. THOSE WERE TOO EXPENSIVE.
THEN WHAT ARE YOU USING?
GET TO WORK, LITTLE FELLAS.
I SAID, WHAT ARE YOU USING?
10-28

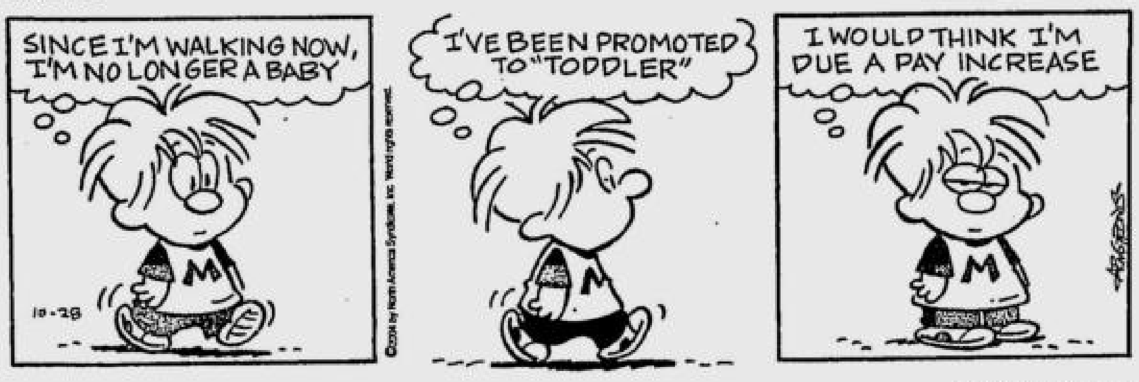
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


GRABE NAMAN ANG GENERAL NA YAN!
MAY UNEXPLAINED WEALTH
AT MAY UNEXPLAINED SILENCE PA!

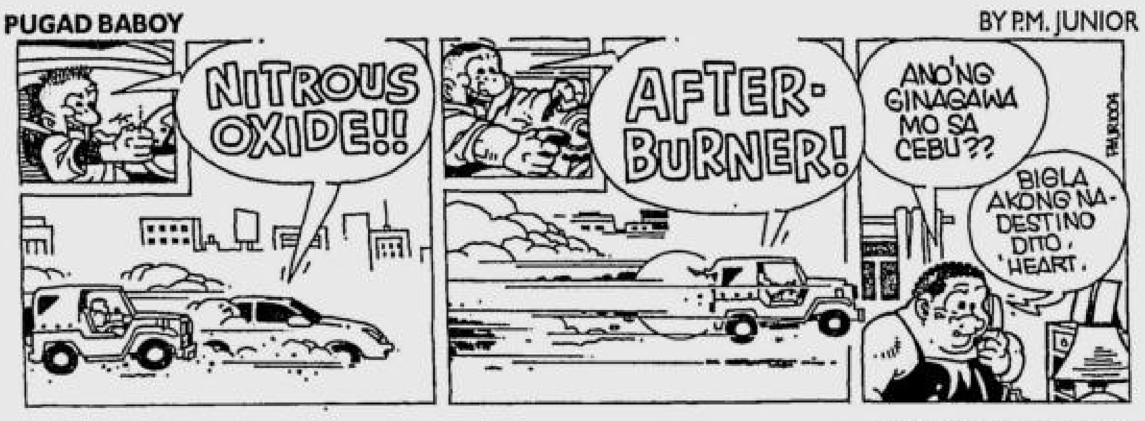
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


SINCE I'M WALKING NOW, I'M NO LONGER A BABY
I'VE BEEN PROMOTED TO "TODDLER"
I WOULD THINK I'M DUE A PAY INCREASE
10-28

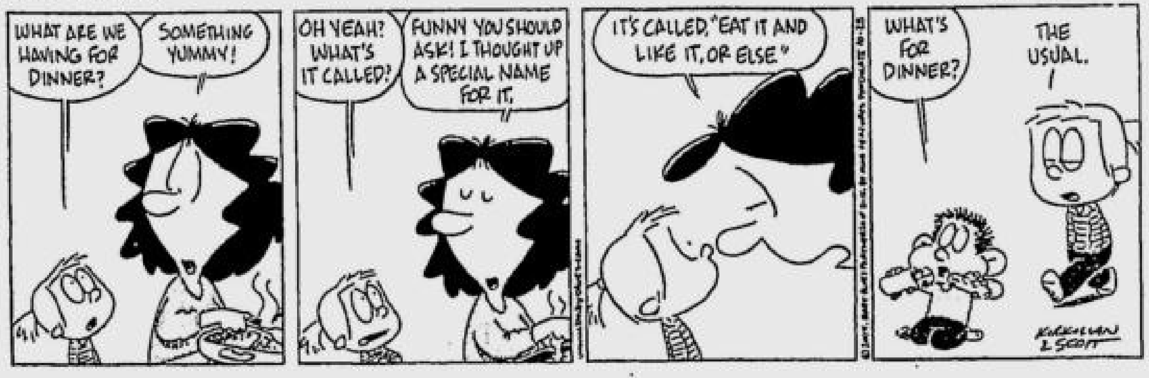
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


NITROUS OXIDE!!
AFTER-BURNER!
ANO'NG GINAGAWA MO SA CEBU??
BIGLA AKONG NA-DESTINO DITO, HEART.

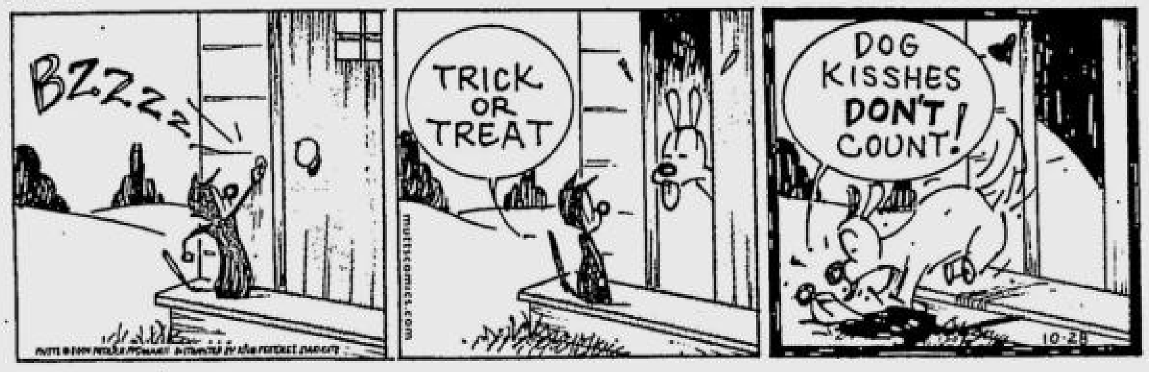
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHAT ARE WE HAVING FOR DINNER?
SOMETHING YUMMY!
OH YEAH? WHAT'S IT CALLED?
FUNNY YOU SHOULD ASK! I THOUGHT UP A SPECIAL NAME FOR IT.
IT'S CALLED, "EAT IT AND LIKE IT, OR ELSE."
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?
THE USUAL.

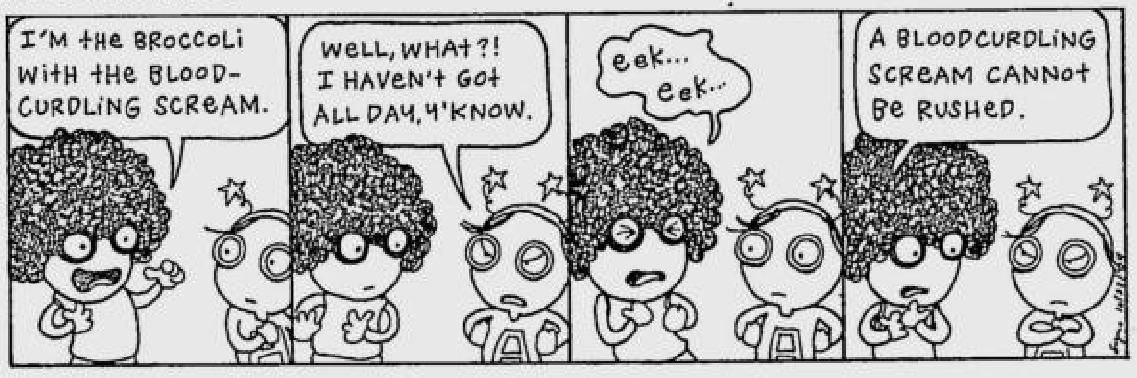
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


BZZZZ
TRICK OR TREAT
DOG KISSHES DON'T COUNT!
mutts comics.com
10-28

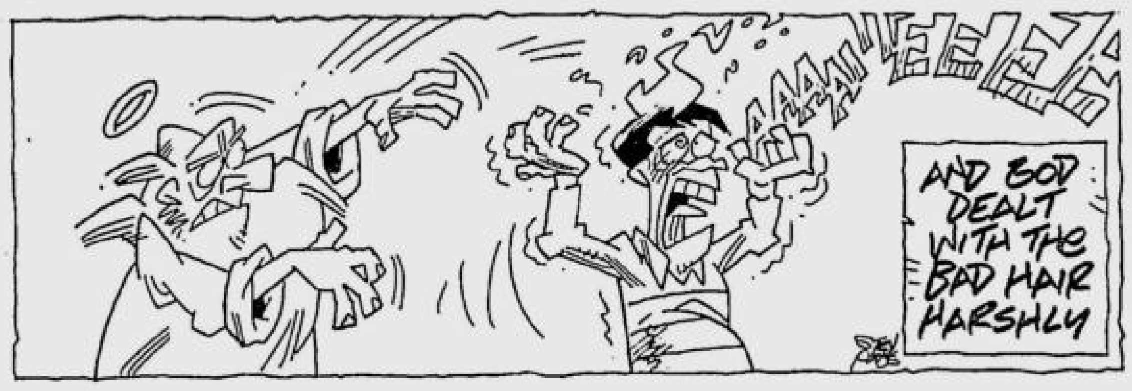
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


I'M THE BROCCOLI WITH THE BLOOD-CURDLING SCREAM.
WELL, WHAT?! I HAVEN'T GOT ALL DAY, Y'KNOW.
eek... eek...
A BLOODCURDLING SCREAM CANNOT BE RUSHED.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


AAAAAIIEEEEE
AND GOD DEALT WITH THE BAD HAIR HARSHLY

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your lighthearted social persona masks a serious side of you. You're curious about everything, and very thorough about finding out what you want to know. Because you do your homework, you're professional in whatever you do. You understand the subtext to things. Get ready for one of the best years of your life! Expect a miracle.

Birthdate of: Bill Gates, Microsoft billionaire; Joaquin Phoenix, actor; Julia Roberts, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Things are easier today. Yesterday you felt stressed about money. Quite probably, nothing has changed; however, you feel better now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Yesterday's Full Moon stressed partnerships and close friendships, despite your ambitious energy at work. Today everything is much more mellow.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You feel more confident at work today. There is less opposition from others. In fact, you're feeling quite playful and flirtatious.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): In the next few weeks, you'll have an increasing desire to beautify your home. Expect to shop, paint, clean and putter about to make everything look more attractive.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Few of us acknowledge how much love there is in our daily lives. In the next few weeks, you'll enjoy warm conversations with siblings, relatives and neighbors. (These people are important to you.)

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): A slight shift for the better is starting to take place in your pocketbook. You might be earning more (if not now, soon). That's why you want to buy pretty things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): With fair Venus now in your sign, your aggressive nature is somewhat subdued. (Mars has made you feisty!) Now you want to schmooze in a friendly way with everyone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With both the Sun and Mercury in your sign now, people are drawn to you. Nevertheless, you need some quiet time just for yourself. Can you swing this?

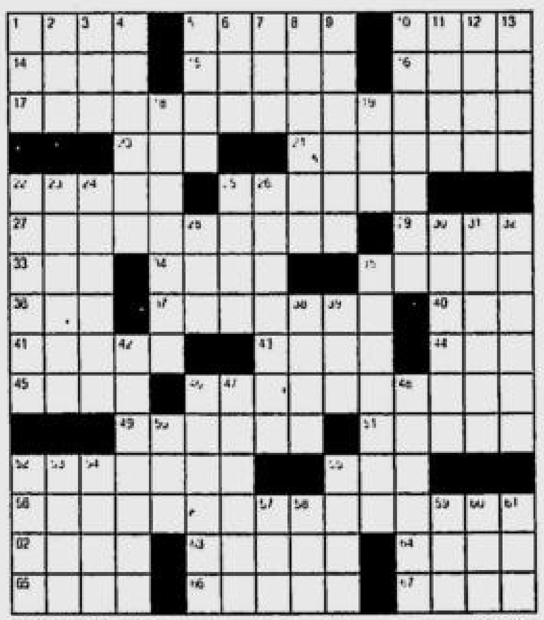
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You are still best off working behind the scenes or working alone now. Yet groups and friends demand your presence! Take turns pleasing them and yourself.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Something's happening in your life to make someone envious of you. (It looks like you've got it made.) Partnerships definitely favor you now. But who is jealous?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): The money, assistance or wherewithal in some fashion might come to you now to help you travel or go back to school. After all, this is what you want to do.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Your partner might start to earn more now. Singles will notice that others want to give them gifts. That's because you stand to benefit from the wealth and resources of others in the next few weeks.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Doug Peterson
Pasadena, CA
10/28/04

ACROSS
1 Seize suddenly
5 __ of Troy
10 Camera's eye
14 "Swan Lake" skirt
15 Battleship to remember
16 Anthem opener
17 Start of an Oscar Wilde quip
20 Derek and Jackson
21 Certain Middle East expert
22 Sneeze sound
25 Panama cash
27 Part 2 of quip
29 Vega's constellation
33 Musical discernment
34 Nose-in-the-air type
35 Knock senseless
36 Pretend pie ingredient
37 One with confidential info
40 Harrison in "Star Wars"
41 Very skilled
43 Roman wrap
44 Mine yield
45 Wolfe of whodunits
46 Part 3 of quip
49 Uses a fork
51 Harness races
52 From the Orient
55 Make public
56 End of quip
62 Skater Lipinski
63 Loom bar
64 Cozy corner
65 Over in Berlin
66 Valerie Harper sitcom
67 Damp at dawn

DOWN
1 Classic Pontiac letters
2 Hosiery flaw
3 Had brunch
4 Table setter
5 Wellness grps.
6 Cannes water
7 Abner's size
8 Ultimate purpose
9 Close
10 Poker variant
11 Actor Morales
12 Contrary votes
13 Part of CBS
18 Walks, slangily
19 Thai language
22 Tarzan, for one
23 Impressionist Monet
24 Less of a picnic?
25 Book jacket blurbs
26 Umpire
28 Bay State cape
30 Pirate song phrase
31 Warn, like a lion
32 "Gunsmoke" star
35 Overly excited
38 Puts on
39 Psyche part
42 Period after surrender
46 Director Herzog
47 "__ and Her Sisters"
48 Quick trip
50 Can. province
52 Rebuke to Brutus
53 Melville's whaler
54 Dried up
55 Taj Mahal site
57 Late starter?
58 Homer's TV neighbor
59 Fish eggs
60 Part of DJIA
61 Wild blue yonder

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	S	C	O	T	■	A	R	M	S	■	A	L	A	S
C	H	A	R	O	■	G	O	A	T	■	F	O	L	K
R	U	B	S	T	H	E	W	R	O	N	G	W	A	Y
E	L	I	■	A	O	N	E	■	C	O	H	E	R	E
S	A	N	D	L	O	T	■	O	K	R	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	L	D	■	S	A	C	■	N	A	P	A
S	T	E	N	O	■	S	U	S	A	N	■	B	O	X
T	A	K	E	S	T	H	E	T	R	O	U	B	L	E
I	C	E	■	S	E	E	D	S	■	C	R	E	E	D
R	O	D	E	■	N	E	E	■	N	O	G	■	■	■
■	■	■	L	I	N	T	■	B	O	N	E	D	R	Y
E	A	T	E	R	Y	■	S	E	A	T	■	R	A	E
D	R	I	V	E	S	U	P	T	H	E	W	A	L	L
D	I	M	E	■	O	M	I	T	■	S	H	I	L	L
A	D	E	N	■	N	A	T	E	■	T	O	N	Y	S

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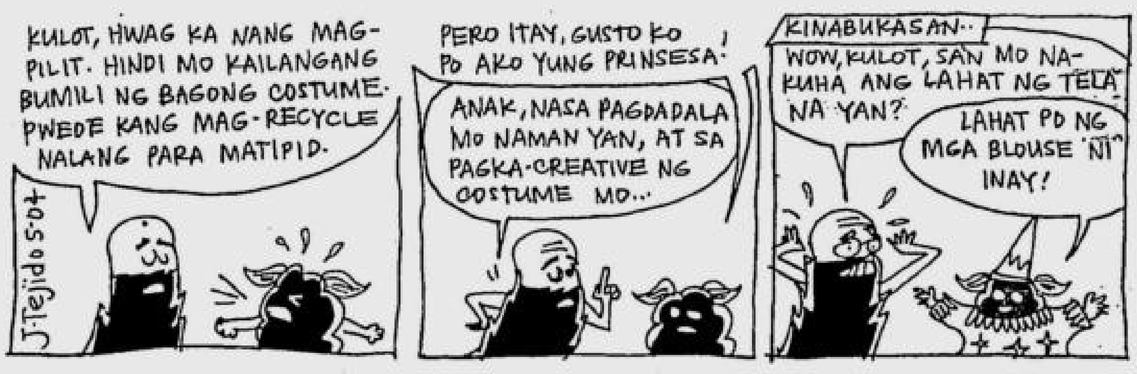
10/28/04

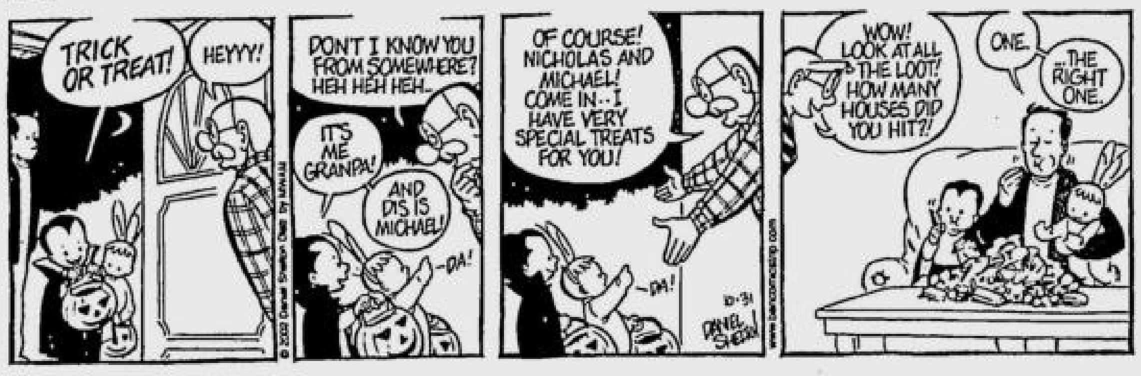
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KULOT, HWAG KA NANG MAG-PILIT. HINDI MO KAILANGANG BUMILI NG BAGONG COSTUME. PWEDE KANG MAG-RECYCLE NALANG PARA MATIPID.
J. Tejido 5.04
PERO ITAY, GUSTO KO PO AKO YUNG PRINSESA!
ANAK, NASA PAGDADALA MO NAMAN YAN, AT SA PAGKA-CREATIVE NG COSTUME MO...
KINABUKASAN...
WOW, KULOT, SAN MO NAKUHA ANG LAHAT NG TELA NA YAN?
LAHAT PO NG MGA BLOUSE "NI" INAY!

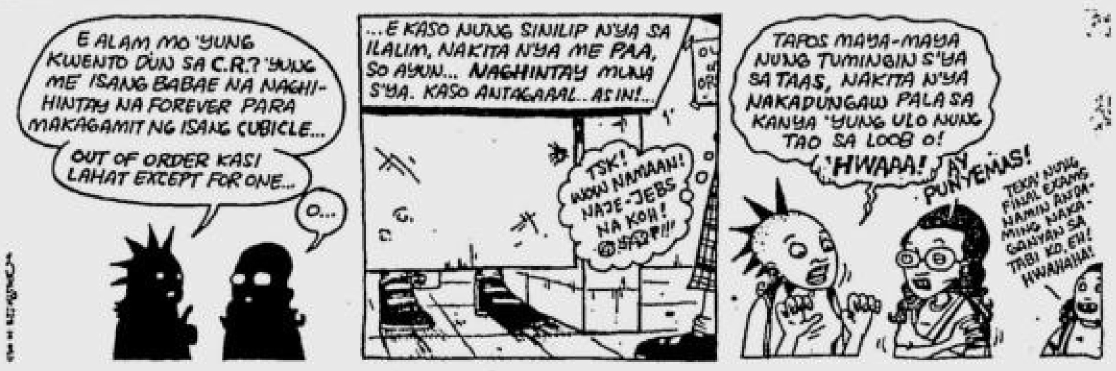
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


TRICK OR TREAT!
HEYYY!
DON'T I KNOW YOU FROM SOMEWHERE? HEH HEH HEH...
IT'S ME GRANPA!
AND DIS IS MICHAEL!
-DA!
OF COURSE! NICHOLAS AND MICHAEL! COME IN... I HAVE VERY SPECIAL TREATS FOR YOU!
-DA!
10-31
WOW! LOOK AT ALL THE LOOT! HOW MANY HOUSES DID YOU HIT?!
ONE.
...THE RIGHT ONE.

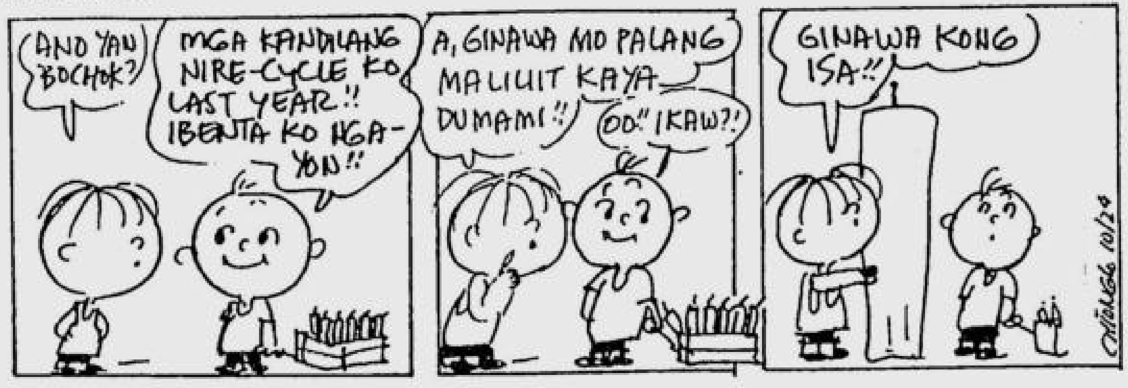
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


E ALAM MO 'YUNG KWENTO DUN SA C.R.? 'YUNG ME ISANG BABAE NA NAGHI-HINTAY NA FOREVER PARA MAKAGAMIT NG ISANG CUBICLE...
OUT OF ORDER KASI LAHAT EXCEPT FOR ONE...
O...
...E KASO NUNG SINILIP N'YA SA ILALIM, NAKITA N'YA ME PAA, SO AYUN... NAGHINTAY MUNA S'YA. KASO ANTAGAAAL... AS IN!...
TSK! WOW NAMAAN! NAJE-JEBS NA KOH! @$&?!!
TAPOS MAYA-MAYA NUNG TUMINGIN S'YA SA TAAS, NAKITA N'YA NAKADUNGAW PALA SA KANYA 'YUNG ULO NUNG TAO SA LOOB O!
'HWAAA!
AY PUNYEMAS!
TEKA! NUNG FINAL EXAMS NAMIN ANDAMING NAKA-GANYAN SA TABI KO, EH! HWAHAHA!

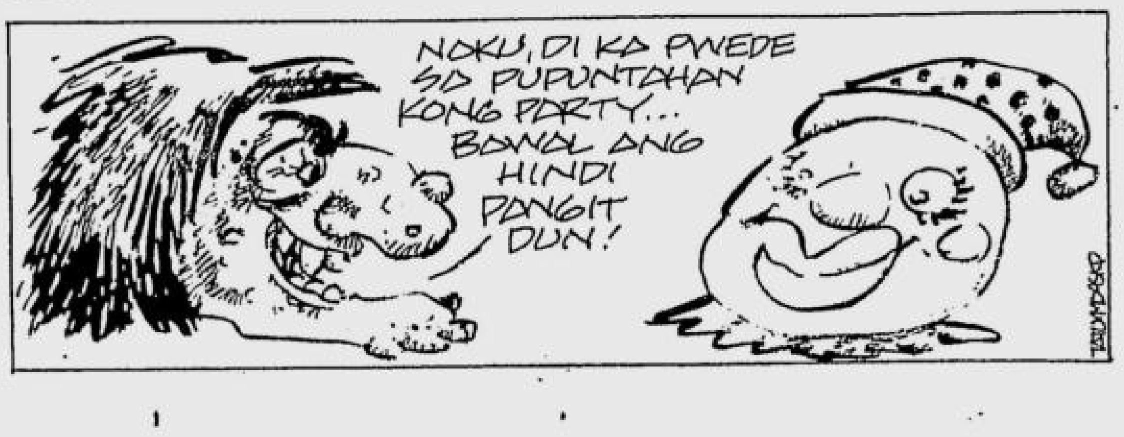
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


AND YAN BOCHOK?
MGA KANDILANG NIRE-CYCLE KO LAST YEAR!! IBENTA KO NGA-YON!!
A, GINAWA MO PALANG MALIIT KAYA DUMAMI!!
OO! IKAW?!
GINAWA KONG ISA!!
CHIONGLO 10/24

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NOKU, DI KA PWEDE SA PUPUNTAHAN KONG PARTY... BAWAL ANG HINDI PANGIT DUN!

Delays at the customs bureau

THE CONSUMER
Marietta Velasco Giron

IF the parcel of Federal Express (FedEx) customer Charles Raby contained lifesaving medicine instead of guitar spare parts, he would have been near-death before it was delivered. The parcel was supposedly sent Oct. 12 but was stuck for 10 days at the air freight brokerage pending customs clearance.

As explained by a representative from FedEx customer service, the delivery was delayed due to the "audit being conducted by Philippine customs."

"If they need additional brokerage cash to expedite clearance, they should say so at the very beginning when the parcel arrives in Manila," advised Raby.

It's not the fault of FedEx, for sure, and it's not fair that it should take the flak from angry clients when people at customs drag their feet in computing duties and taxes.

For whatever it is worth, here's our warning to express parcel senders, whether it's through FedEx or DHL or any other company: Non-document shipment still has to pass through customs, and if it is assessed to be taxable, then the goods will not be delivered until the dues are settled. Please don't ask us why it takes more than a week to do that.

As FedEx spokesperson Alberto D. Lina explains to customers, "Duties and taxes are computed and charged by the Bureau of Customs. We would like to point out that under the Conditions of Contract on our International Air Waybill, which customers complete prior to sending their shipment, it is stated that the sender or recipient is responsible for all charges, including transportation charges, and all duties, customs assessments, governmental penalties, fines and taxes related to this shipment."

From our e-mail

Prescy B., a Metrobank branch manager, advised consumers to ignore cellular phone calls or text messages announcing that they had won thousands of pesos in a raffle. It's a perennial scam, she warned, and related the following incident:

"A couple requested me to check if there was a Mr. A. Tan connected with Metrobank-Cebu branch. They said Tan called to inform them that the P300,000 they won in the raffle held earlier by Charity Foundation was ready to be remitted and transferred to their account. Prior to that, the couple received a text message from a woman congratulating them for winning P300,000 in a raffle. To claim their prize, they were advised to send five Smart pre-paid cards to a given cellphone number. The couple complied and shortly received the call of A. Tan, who also asked for prepaid cards. It was needed for processing the transfer of their winnings to their accounts, he told the couple. I warned them in time, but they had already spent a lot of money buying and sending the pre-paid cards to the swindlers."

Angelie U, who works in Ortigas, Greenhills, has this comment on the new P30 taxi meter flagdown: "The government approval on the new taxi fare increase is okay with me, if only the Land Transportation Office would make sure the condition of the vehicles are worth the money passengers are paying. Many units are dilapidated. Their upholstery is in dismal condition, and their interior smells repulsive. Moreover, some units have faulty airconditioners that work like a fan, if they work at all. LTO officials should try riding different taxis so they can experience what I am talking about."

Theft at gyms

I heard someone in Bangkok complaining about the theft of his valuables from a locker at a physical fitness gym in Makati. *Nakakahiya,* to think that only a few days earlier, I got an e-mail from Alexander Mendoza who complained that his cellular phone and wallet were stolen from his secured locker at a fitness gym in Fort Bonifacio.

The thief, he said, forced open the lock then replaced it after divesting the compartment of his valuables. His identification cards, credit cards and valuable documents were all gone.

Mendoza complained about the royal hassle he experienced while trying to demand full compensation for the items he lost. He said he went on a wild goose chase after the country officer and the branch manager, only to be told in the end that the club was not responsible for items lost in the lockers, and that the gym was not going to replace anything.

> Non-document shipment has to pass through customs and, if assessed to be taxable, will not be delivered until the dues are settled

Salted specialties

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts will conduct the following classes:

Oct. 29: Salt! (all-new)—Salt Roasted Prawns, Salt Cured Whole Fried Turkey, Salt Crust Roast Mushroom Chicken, Salt Crust Roast Beef, Salt Crust Salmon; sauces, side dishes and condiments

Oct. 30: Roast Chicken Collection—Roast Chicken with Bone Marrow and Mushroom Gravy, Iberian Chicken (Garlic Chicken), Curry Roast with Mango Chutney and Indian Pilaf, Roast Butter Chicken in Butter Sauce, Roast Chicken Galantina; side dishes

Nov. 3: Children's Party (all new)—Assorted Mini Sandwiches, Giant Meatball Spaghetti, Baked Macaroni Cupcakes, Delicious Corn Dog, Mini Pork Barbecue, Delicious Caramel Pop Corn, Gooey Chocolate Cup Cakes, Brownie Cones, Root Beer Floats, Easy Fruit Snow Cones

Nov. 5: Cooking Thin/Diet Cuisine one (all new)—two Soups, six Diet Salad Dressing, six Easy Diet Pastas, six Easy and Delicious Diet Main Dishes, three Diet Desserts. Special class, P2,500++

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162 or 0917-8399888.

ENG Bee Tin has interesting *hopia* combos of *ube-pastillas* and *ube-queso*, two flavors in one

October fetes 2

From page D1

want to have clothes or anything sewn or repaired, call her. Rosie works hard while caring for her ailing mother. Please call her if there's anything you want done. Good and cheap home service!

Cake World/Kitchen World, 9112329, 4373311.

Claudine Manggasing, Fresh Produce, Stall 21, Market! Market, Bonifacio Global City, 0922-8187004.

Rosie, 0919-2298478

Divisoria tour

Oct. 14—My good friend, lawyer Gabby Concepcion, and I went to Divisoria to get our Christmas lights and trimmings for our respective trees. We were gladly accompanied by soft furnisher Gary Palmani, who served as our tour guide and brought us to all the right places. Christmas lights at P23, trimmings and ribbons, P80-P400 cheaper than anywhere else.

After the trip, I just had to drag them to one of the best Chinese restaurants, President on Ongpin Street, Chinatown, to eat my favorite Salted Fish Fried Rice. No one makes it like the President does.

We couldn't leave Ongpin without going to Eng Bee Tin. I'm glad we did. I discovered the most interesting *hopia* combos of *ube-pastillas* and *ube-queso*, two flavors in one. Yummy!

Andings for Christmas trimmings. For bows etc., "Wellamson," says Gary. I say "Williamson." He's Bisaya, I'm Ilokana. Who to believe is up to you. Divisoria Mall for P23 lights and matching "fire extinguishers!" All along the stretch of Tabora Street in Divisoria.

Trimming the tree

Oct. 15—Home sick, nursing my cough and cold. However, setting up my Christmas tree filled with Divi loot and writing this article perked me up. What a wonderful life! God is good!

As promised, John Dormido, here's your **Green Chicken Curry** recipe by chef Dino Guingona.

1/4 c coconut milk, second extraction
1/2 c chicken pieces, sliced
1/2 c eggplants, quartered
2 tsp Thai *patis**
1/4 c fresh basil leaves
1 1/2 tbsp palm sugar*
1 tsp green curry paste*
1½ c fresh coconut milk, first extraction, *kakang gata*
1 long red Thai chili, julienned (available at Lolita's vegetable stall, Farmers Market)
1/2 tsp salt

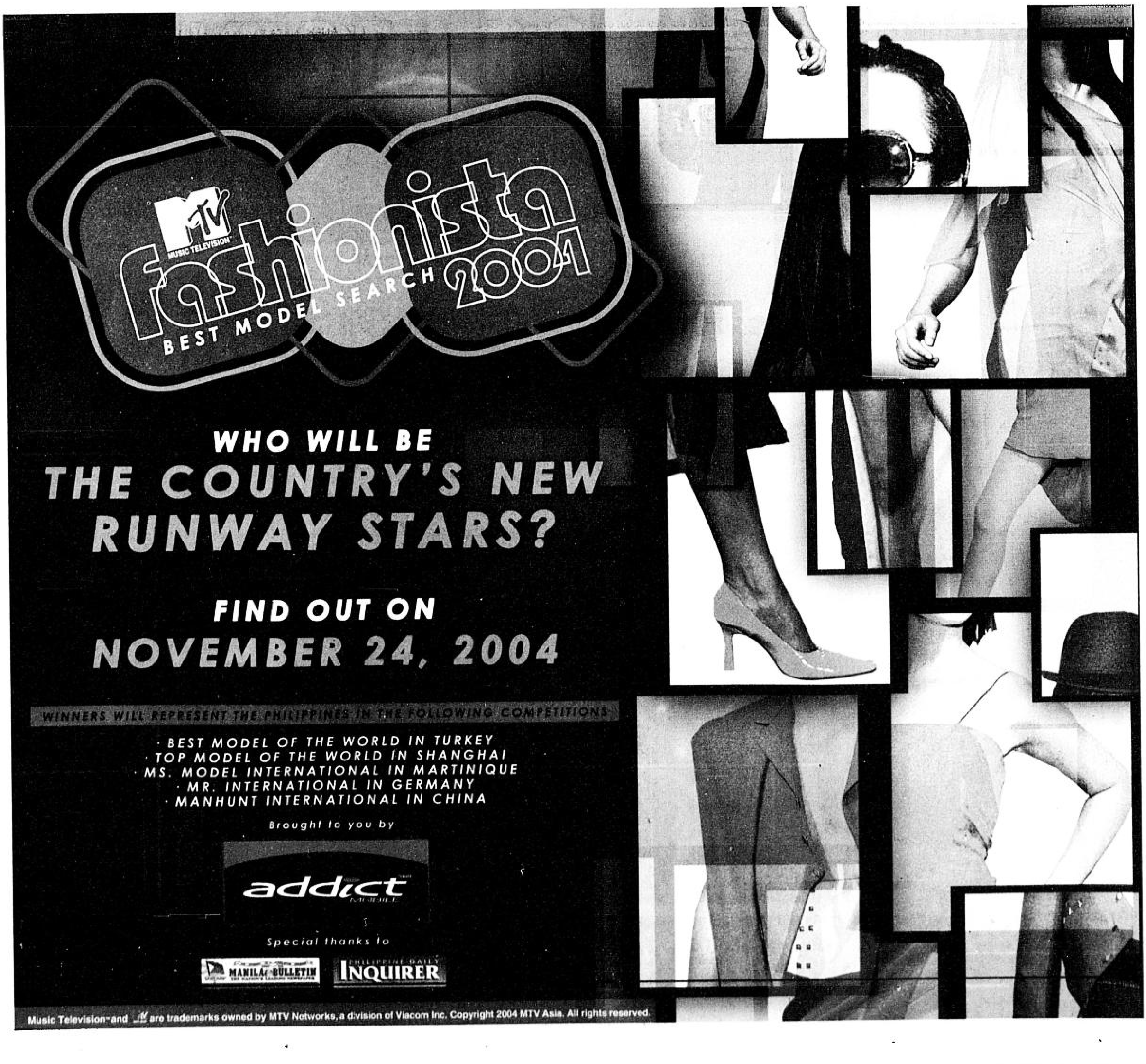
*Chef's Nook, 220 Pilar St., Mandaluyong City, 7245812

- Heat 1/4 c coconut cream until oil appears on top of cream. Stir constantly.
- Add green curry paste. Fry until fragrant.
- Add chicken. Cook until it changes color.
- Add first extraction of coconut milk. Bring to a boil.
- Add the rest of the ingredients, except basil.
- Cover and simmer for 4 mins, season to taste.
- Remove from heat. Add basil leaves.

Next week, how we spent the First World Chefs Day at Uva and, as requested by Joey Pacheco, my recipes for classic pasta sauces.

Yes, my Diet Cooking Class is pushing through Nov. 5. Reserve now!

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.


MTV MUSIC TELEVISION
fashionista 2004
BEST MODEL SEARCH
WHO WILL BE
THE COUNTRY'S NEW RUNWAY STARS?
FIND OUT ON
NOVEMBER 24, 2004
WINNERS WILL REPRESENT THE PHILIPPINES IN THE FOLLOWING COMPETITIONS
· BEST MODEL OF THE WORLD IN TURKEY
· TOP MODEL OF THE WORLD IN SHANGHAI
· MS. MODEL INTERNATIONAL IN MARTINIQUE
· MR. INTERNATIONAL IN GERMANY
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HALLOWEEN MIDNIGHT specials

FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 'til midnight

NO TRICKS JUST TERRIFIC FINDS AT TERRIFIC MARK DOWNS UNTIL NOV 1

SM CITY LUCENA HALLOWEEN SPECIAL
OCT 29-30 10AM-10PM • OCT 31-NOV 1 10AM-12MN

SM SUPERMALLS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA • SM CITY FAIRVIEW • SM MEGAMALL ORTIGAS • SM CITY STA. MESA • SM CITY MANILA • SM CITY BICUTAN • SM CITY SUPERCENTER SUCAT • SM SOUTHMALL LAS PIÑAS • SM CITY BACOOR • SM CITY PAMPANGA • SM CITY CEBU • SM CITY ILOILO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY MARILAO • SM CITY DASMARIÑAS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2639, Series of 2004

THE PROFESSIONAL kitchen with imported stainless wall

School promises world-class training for would-be chefs

THE ACADEMY for International Culinary Arts (Aica) promises to offer students a world-class culinary education so Filipinos wanting to start a career in the food business would not have to go abroad.

Aica is set up to allow for an intensely personalized learning interaction with the faculty—experienced chefs and restaurateurs.

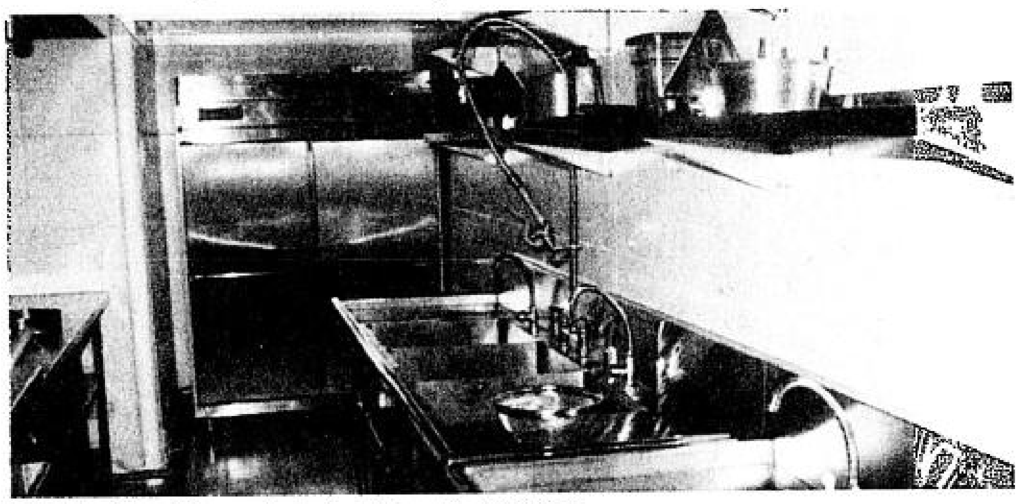
The faculty includes Michael Moreno Tiaoqui, a graduate of the Centre for International Education; Roberto Heras Pengson, who graduated from the California Culinary Academy in San Francisco; Johann Chiongbian Young, who has a diploma in Hotel and Restaurant Management.

Aica offers professional programs ranging from basic to full diploma courses. The Professional Culinary Arts Program (Diploma Course) is designed for the aspiring chef. It runs for 15 months. Other courses offered are Fundamentals of Professional Cooking, Fundamentals of Professional Baking and Pastry, and Principles of Asian Cuisine.

All academy programs are intended to make graduates cook like professionals, create recipes and menus, manage food costs, and ensure safety and sanitation.

Aica is at Suite 207 Skyway Twin Towers, 351 Capt. Henry P. Javier St., Oranbo, Pasig City. Call 6722119/6722271.

CHEF Robert Pengson and Michael Tiaoqui check out the cooking equipment.


A VIEW of the all-imported, all-stainless Basic kitchen

It's Okay To Be Chubby At Age 5. Not At Age 12.

It's easy for any parent not to worry about excess fat problem on a chubby, happy kid. But time flies, suddenly that same fat kid is a young teenager heading into its formative years - and now the problem is serious. Being overweight can inhibit social behavior, learning abilities, mental well-being and the development of brain power. Once a child starts putting on weight, it's difficult to stop. Adults have difficulty with self-control when it comes to over-eating, but kids have none! Many parents find they can't handle the problem without professional help.

Call *Young Slimmers* at Marie France Bodyline now for a no cost, no obligation consultation. We have the technology and know-how to help your child attain a good-looking, slim and healthy shape. Find out how children can lose fat without starving diets, just a natural body process. Put your kid on the right track for a long, happy and healthy life. Call *Young Slimmers* today.

Enroll between Oct. 25-30, 2004 and get
FREE WEIGHT-LOSS STARTER PROGRAMME
(2 Fat Mobilization Treatments)

Young Slimmers at Marie France Bodyline

CALL 894-BODY (2639) BEST FOR EASY FAT LOSS

MAKATI 15/F GT Tower
ORTIGAS 36/F Robinsons Equitable Tower
TIMOG 3/F Cedar Exec. Bldg.
BINONDO Unit 0-1 City Plaza Tower
ALABANG 3/F Citibank-Frabelle Bldg.
SHAW 2/F Sunshine Square Plaza
CONGRESSIONAL 2/F Q Plaza Bldg.
PAMPANGA TEL: 961-2981 3/F Dan's Mktg. Bldg.
CEBU TEL: 233-7637 Unit 1203 Keppel Centre

A taste of Germany

GERMANY'S premium exports will be offered at the Tower Club, 6-9 tonight, as part of the month-long "Germany... It's More Than You Think!" celebration.

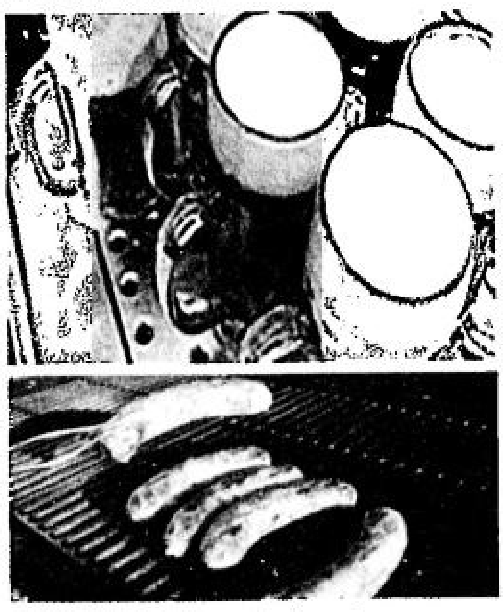
The event is hosted by Fairs and More, in cooperation with the German Embassy.

The German cocktail party will feature a wine tasting, with beverages provided by Brumms Quality Wines Inc.

Also to be showcased is the wide amazing diversity of *wurst* (sausages) and cheeses.

Tickets for the German Cocktail Party, priced at P750 each, are available at Fairs and More, 8451324. The event is held in coordination with ABS-CBN, Studio 23, ANC, Cinema One, Lifestyle Network, Myx, Globe Platinum and the Tower Club.

Visit www.germany-philippines.com, or call Fairs and More.


FIND out what is special about German wines, sausages, beers and cheeses at the German Cocktail Party today at the Tower Club, part of the "Germany... It's more than you think!" month-long celebration.

Philippine Marketing Association
AGORA CONFERENCE 2004

Agora Conference speakers - winners all

EXEMPLARY professionals who have carved a name for themselves in the marketing industry form the core of speakers in this year's Agora Conference slated on Oct. 28 and 29 at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati.

The Philippine Marketing Association sought previous winners of its annual Agora Awards for marketing excellence as speakers. They are Karen de Asis who was last year's Agora Awardee for Outstanding Achievement in Marketing Education; Ferdinand dela Cruz, head of Wireless and Business Group of Globe Telecom, the marketing company that won in 2000; Luis Lorenzo, Jr. who was awarded an Agora for Outstanding Achievement in Export Marketing in 2000; Tom Banguis who was given the 1991 Agora Award for Marketing Achievement; and Bienvenido Niles, Jr., who was the recipient of the Asia-Pacific Agora Award for Marketing Excellence in 2002.

The bi-annual event which carries the theme 'Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market' will focus on the principles and trends in marketing convergence, the business strategy of bringing together originally disparate products and services to become one.

According to Mylene Abiva-Sazon, director of the Agora Conference, the Agora Awards represent the pinnacle of marketing achievement. "It is given to an individual or organization only once, and this year we have the honor to learn straight from the past winners," she said.

On the first day, speakers will introduce market convergence, its principles, components and origin. They will also discuss 'Managing in a Convergent 'Market' with topics such as 'Strategic Options: Competing in a Convergent Market and the Financial Benefits of Succeeding in this Market' and 'Managing Convergent Markets: Marketing management tools used by successful companies in a convergent market.'

Meanwhile, on the second day they will tackle how to prepare for a convergent market with topics like Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate? and 'Convergent Market: Can Managers Shape It?"

This year's Agora Conference is supported by Amalgamated Specialties Corp, AZ Direct Marketing, Centrex Corp, Chowkings Food Corp, Country Bakers Insurance, Diwa Learning Systems Inc, Globe Telecom, Goldilocks Bakeshop, Global Brands, GMA Marketing & Productions, Image One, LSF Printing, Microdata Systems Management, Motorola Communications Phils, Ott Louie, Philippine Daily Inquirer, RGMA, Seagull Glass Works Inc, Splash Corp, SM Corporation, Sterling Paper Products and Smart Communications.

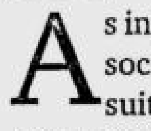
For inquiries on the Agora Conference, contact the association secretariat at 634-4890; 634-5722 and 631-3286 or email pma@philonline.com

5TH AGORA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
Seated, (from left) Mylene Abiva-Sazon, director, 5th Agora Conference; Jes Ortega, president, Phil. Marketing Association and Karen de Asis, overall chair, 5th Agora Conference. Standing (from left) Donna Canafranca, program; Ariel Roselo, staging and program chair; Gen. Gallardo, admin chair and Ting Samonte, exhibit chair.

The Philippine Marketing Association celebrates its 50th year anniversary with the theme - Marketing Renaissance. French for re-birth, the Renaissance is our inspiration to take the lead in re-thinking and re-inventing Marketing for the next 50 years.

The 5th Agora Conference, entitled "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market", will once again dare the industry to explore new ground. We thank the exclusive list of Agora Awardees who will share their insights on this exciting marketing phenomenon.

JOSE ORTEGA
2004 President
Philippine Marketing Association



As in years past, the Philippine Marketing Association has committed itself to the pursuit of marketing excellence. In mounting this year's Agora Conference with the theme "Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market," it has carried the torch and has lived to its promise.

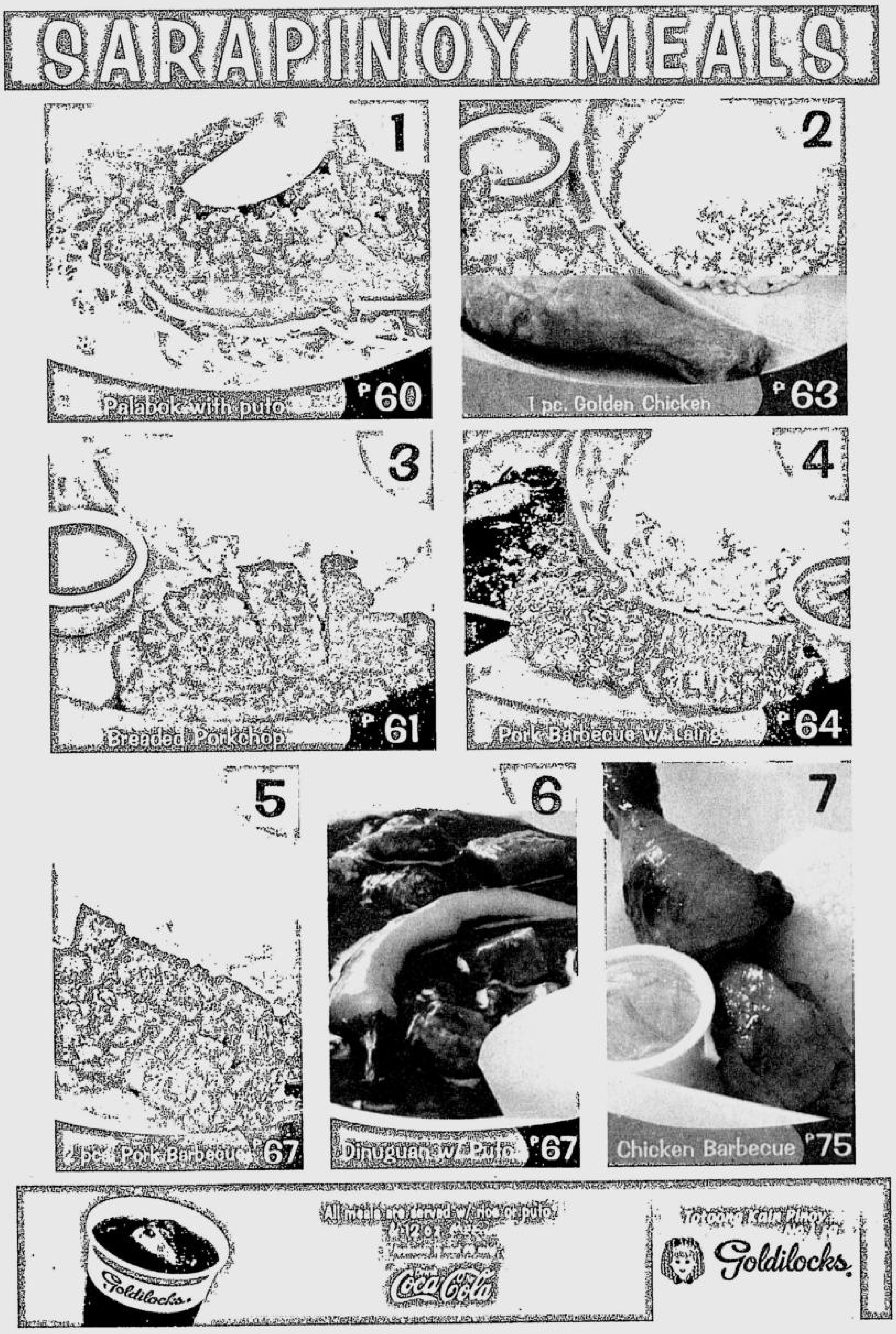
I count it a privilege that our speakers all belong to the elite group of Agora awardees. I am excited in the role they will take in equipping, edifying and encouraging the present and the future of marketing in the country.

I commend all the members whose faithful perseverance made this event a reality. The task I was given was never easy but it was well worth it with all your unwavering support.

For all Agora Conference participants, may the conference reward your sacrifices with wisdom. May your skills be sharpened and your spirits be refreshed as you learn many new things that will create a positive difference in the marketing arena.

This is for all of us who aspire marketing excellence!

MYLENE ABIVA-SAZON
Director in Charge
5th Agora Awards



5th Agora Conference Committee

MYLENE ABIVA-SAZON
Director-in-Charge
5th Agora Conference

KAREN V. DE ASIS
Over-all Chair

GEN M. GALLARDO
Admin Chair

ARIEL L. ROSELO
Program and Staging Chair

TING I. SAMONTE
Exhibit Chair

HERMINIO J. DEL ROSARIO
Marketing Chair

Marketing Renaissance in a Convergent Market

THE PHILIPPINE Marketing Association assembled the best minds in marketing including previous Agora awardees as speakers for the Agora Conference 2004 held at the Shangri-La Hotel Makati on Oct. 28 to 29.

The two-day conference with the theme 'Marketing Renaissance' focused on the principles and trends in market convergence, the business strategy of bringing together originally disparate products and services to become one.

It aimed to provide participants with basic understanding of the conditions that lead to a market that is classless and undifferentiated where the technology platform is homogeneous or highly accessible, standards are extremely high, and pricing is affordable to the mass market.

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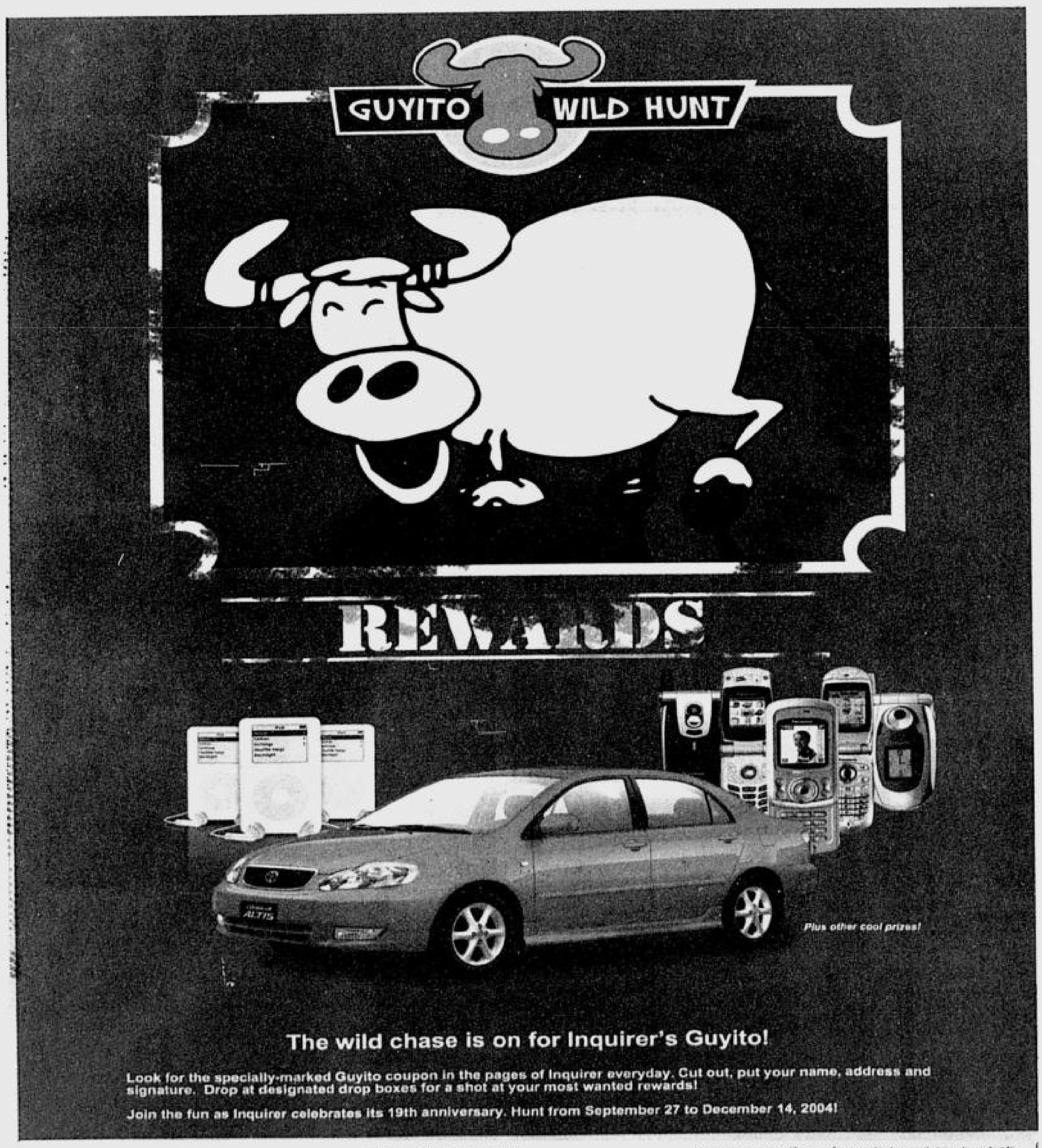

The wild chase is on for Inquirer's Guyito!

Look for the specially-marked Guyito coupon in the pages of Inquirer everyday. Cut out, put your name, address and signature. Drop at designated drop boxes for a shot at your most wanted rewards!

Join the fun as Inquirer celebrates its 19th anniversary. Hunt from September 27 to December 14, 2004!

Prizes (One winner per item)
Grand Prize
Toyota Altis 1.8J M/T

MONTHLY DRAW

October Draw	November Draw	Consolation
iPAQ rz1710	20 GB iPod	Palm Zire 72
Olympus MJU300	HP dj450 Portable Printer	iPAQ
Finepix a202	Olympus MJU400	Olympus 450
Epson Printer	Fujipix f402	Finepix f401
Blackberry 7230	Epson Printer	Epson Printer
Canon A70 Digicam	Panasonic X400	Panasonic X500
20 GB iPod	Motorola MPX 200	Panasonic X700
	Motorola C380	Blackberry 7230
		Canon A70 Digicam
		Motorola C100
		Motorola C650
		Motorola V3
		40GB iPod
		20GB iPod
		Motorola C650
		Panasonic X300
		Palm Zire 31
		Epson CX5300 Printer
		Canon A70 Digicam

PROMO MECHANICS:

a) Each copy of the Philippine Daily Inquirer will contain a specially-marked coupon featuring Guyito, the broadsheet's illustrated carabao icon, hidden in one of the pages. The hidden Guyito will appear in the PDI daily from September 27 to December 14, 2004.
b) Participant can then cut-out the Guyito coupon, write down legibly his/her name, address, contact number and affix signature on the blanks provided, and send to Philippine Daily Inquirer offices or drop in drop boxes. Only original Guyito coupons will be considered valid entries. Original coupons are marked with the Guyito Wild Hunt promo logo.
c) Only one Guyito coupon will be featured in each Inquirer issue from Monday to Saturday. There will be two Guyito coupons featured in Inquirer every Sunday.
d) There are two ways to send entries:
   1. Mail to:
      Guyito Wild Hunt: Inquirer 19th Anniversary Promo
      c/o PDI Building Don Chino Roces Avenue,
      Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
   2. Drop in drop boxes located at the following:
      Robinsons Movieworld cinema lobbies (all branches)
      Glorietta mall
      Glorietta 1 Cinema Lobby
      Glorietta 4 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Cinema Lobby
      Greenbelt 1 Mall
      Greenbelt 3 Customer Service
      Greenbelt 3 Cinema Lobby
      Alabang Town Center Mall
      Alabang Town Center Cinema Lobby
      Netopia (all branches)
      LBC (all branches)
e) For the monthly draws, deadline of entries are on October 17 and November 17. Monthly winners will be drawn on October 22 and November 22, 3pm, at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office. Winners will be notified thru a phone call and registered mail from a Philippine Daily Inquirer representative. Non winning entries per draw will be included in the succeeding draws. The list of monthly winners will be published within two weeks after the draw.
f) Deadline of entries for the grand draw is on December 14. Mailed in entries must be received by December 17. Grand draw and consolation prize winners will be drawn on December 21, 2004 at 12nn. Grand prize winner will win a brand new Toyota Altis.
g) A winner can only win once per draw. If a name gets drawn more than once, he/she gets the prize of higher value. Prize categories are: monthly prize, consolation prize, and grand prize.
h) All winners below 18 years of age need to be with their legal guardian to claim prize. Both the minor and the parent/guardian should present valid identification. The latter should also present proof that he/she is the legal guardian of the minor.
i) Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
j) For more questions call Ms. Ching dela Cruz of Inquirer's Marketing Department at 897 8808 loc 237.
k) Metro Manila winners may claim their prizes at the Philippine Daily Inquirer office at the Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Avenue (Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City. Provincial winners may claim their prizes at the nearest Inquirer office indicated on the registered mail. Winners may claim their prize from October 18.
l) All winners must present the following to an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative:
   (1) Two valid IDs with complete real name, picture and correct address. Photocopies of any of the two documents (i.e. birth certificate, marriage contract, SSS ID, driver's license, school ID and/or passport) should be submitted upon claiming of prize.
   (2) Registered mail that the Philippine Daily Inquirer sent to the winner of the Guyito Wild Hunt raffle draw.
   (3) Representative a valid identification and authorization letter from the winner (if prize is claimed through a representative).
m) All prizes must be claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification call and registered mail (whichever comes last) from an authorized Philippine Daily Inquirer representative.
n) All unclaimed prizes after the said date shall be forfeited in favor of PDI with prior DTI approval.

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SMART

The conference focuses on the principles and trends in MARKET CONVERGENCE, a market where disjointed markets converge, boundaries that define and isolate need-specific markets erode, and cross elasticity no longer holds (Johannes Jennings).

It aims to provide participants with a basic understanding of the conditions that lead to a market that is classless and undifferentiated where the technology platform is homogenous or highly accessible, standards are extremely high, and pricing is affordable to the mass market.

The conference exposes the participants to various strategic options engaged by companies that were successful in managing or creating a CONVERGENT MARKET that is massive and growth-driven through case studies, lectures and discussions.

Philippine Marketing Association
Agora Conference 2004
Marketing Renaissance in a CONVERGENT MARKET
October 28-29, 2004
Shangri-La Hotel Makati
PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

October 28, 2004
8:00 - 9:00 Registration
9:00 - 9:15 Opening Remarks
Mr. Joselito B. Ortega
President, Philippine Marketing Association
AM Sessions Module 1: Principles of Market Convergence

Session 1
9:15 - 10:15 Introduction to Market Convergence
(Principles and Components of Market Convergence)
Ms. Karen V. de Asis
Faculty and Marketing Director
DLSU Graduate School of Business

Session 2
Market Convergence: Market Technology-Driven?
10:15 - 11:30 (Roots or Origins of Convergent Markets)
Mr. Ferdinand M. De La Cruz
Head, Wireless Business Group, GLOBE Telecom

11:30 - 12:00 nn Synthesis/Open Forum
Dr. Leonardo R. Garcia, Jr.
Dean, Professional Continuing Education
DLSU, College of St. Benilde

12:00 nn - 1:00 pm LUNCHBREAK

PM Sessions Module 2: Managing in a Convergent Market

Session 3
1:15 - 2:30 Strategic Options in a Convergent Market
(Competing in a Convergent Market and the Financial Benefits of Succeeding in this Market)
Sec. Luis P. Lorenzo, Jr.
Presidential Adviser for Jobs Generation and Chairman of Land Bank and Quedancor

Session 4
3:00 - 4:15 Managing Convergent Markets
(Marketing Management Tools engaged by successful companies in a Convergent Market)
Mr. Tom C. Banguis, Jr.
President
AB Communications, Inc.

4:15 - 4:30 Synthesis/Open Forum
Ms. Luz T. Suplico
Assistant Professor, Dela Salle University

October 29, 2004
AM Sessions Module 3: Preparing or Planning for a Convergent Market

Session 5
9:00 - 10:15 Convergent Market: Can Managers Anticipate?
(Predicting industries that are ripe for Convergence)
Mr. Bienvenido C. Niles, Jr.
President
AC Nielsen-Asia Pacific

Session 6
10:15 - 11:30 Convergent Market: Can Managers shape it?
(Influencing the shape and trend of Market Convergence)
Ambassador Amable R. Aguiluz, V
President
AMA Education System

11:30 - 11:45 Synthesis/Open Forum
Ms. Mylene Abiva-Sazon
Chief Executive Officer
Felta Multi-Media Inc.

11:45 - 12:00 nn Closing/Raffle

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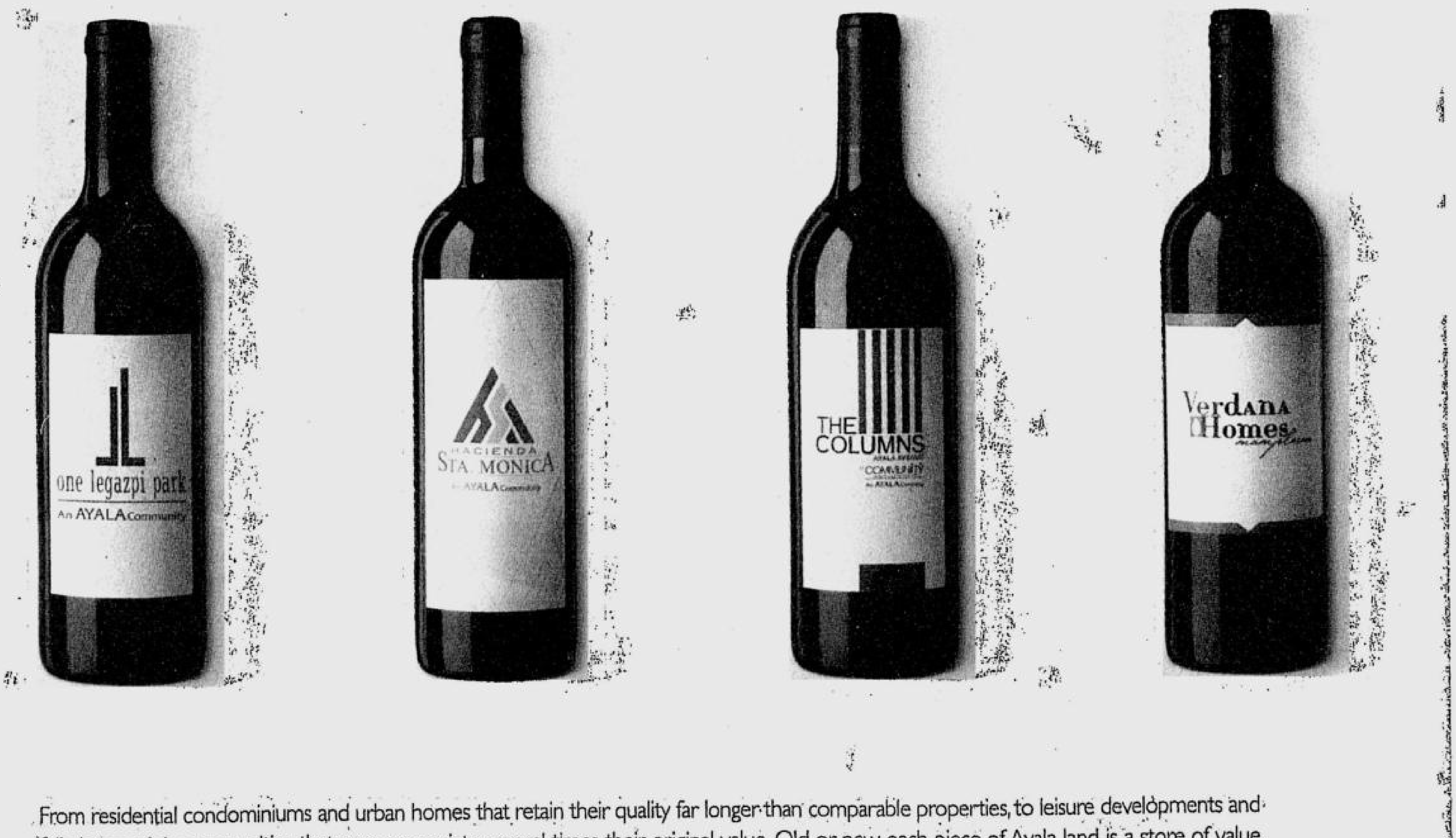
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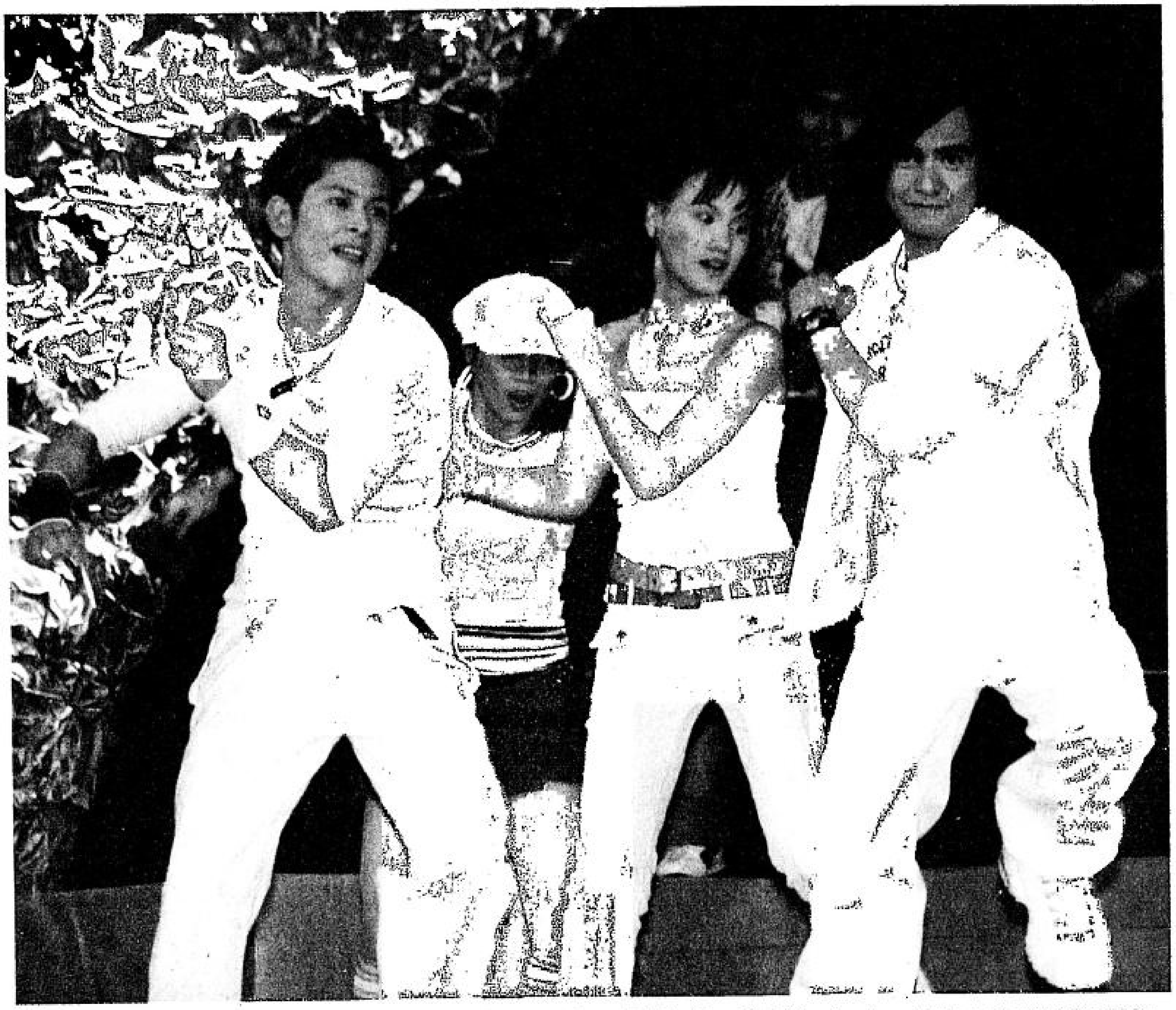


ABS-CBN SHOW. Hero Angeles (right) runs away with a dance number with fellow Star Circle Questors Joseph Bitangcol and Melissa Ricks

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH AGCAOILI

FEMALE STAR of the Night Kristine Hermosa

JODI Santamaria and Luis Manzano, Best Talent Search Program Hosts, in a tie with Jolina Magdangal

GMA 7 snubbed Star Awards due to controversies

By Jocelyn Valle
Contributor

GMA 7 did not participate in the staging of last Saturday's 18th Star Awards for Television because of the controversies that accompanied last year's proceedings.

This was according to the network's publicity head, Jayce Perlas, quoting an official statement. Perlas, however, did not elaborate on the issue.

"Although GMA management has decided not to participate in the activities of the award-giving body this year," said Perlas, quoting the network statement, "GMA Network is not closing its doors on the prospect of joining the PMPC Star Awards in the future."

He made it clear to INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview last Monday that management didn't prohibit its talents from attending the event.

Vicky Morales, who won best public affairs program host for another winner, "Wish Ko Lang," said she wasn't aware that there was a boycott.

"I wasn't able to go because I watched Rico J. Puno's concert at the San Lazaro with my husband," said Vicky. "He's a big fan of Rico's. I was being a dutiful wife."

Producers forewarned

Jolina Magdangal was performing in a private function in Tagaytay, according to his father Jun Magdangal, who's also her manager. The singer-actress won for best talent search show host, along with Luis Manzano and Jodi Santamaria of Channel 2's "Star Circle Quest."

Jolina's father said that he already told the people behind Airtime Marketing, the TV producer of the Star Awards show, weeks ago that Jolina would be booked on the date of the awards night.

But he said that a week before the event, he got a call from PMPC president Julie Bonifacio-Gaspar, who informed her about Jolina's nomination and participation in the awards night.

"So I asked Airtime what Jolina would do (in the show)," said Jolina's father in a phone interview. "I wanted to know if she would host or do a production number. That's what I always ask those (who want to get my daughter for shows). What is she going to do and with whom? But I was told that Jolina won't do anything."

BIG BOY. Best Show Biz Talk Show Host Boy Abunda

He said he called Airtime again three days before the awards night to make it clear that Jolina wouldn't go to the event, but he was told that she had to be in the show. "But we had already committed Jolina's services to a private function in Tagaytay so there was no way that she could make it to the awards night," he pointed out.

Same compound

He said Jolina was in a similar situation last month when The Entertainment Press Society Inc staged the First Golden Screen Awards for TV at the AFP Theater in Camp Aguinaldo. But Jolina was able to attend the awards night because the place where she had another engagement was in the same compound, he said.

Rainier Castillo, who tied with Erik Santos for the best new male personality and who was also a part of "StarStruck" that shared the best talent search honors with "SCQ," was in a taping for "Mel and Joey" on the night of the 18th Star Awards for TV, according to Ida Henares of GMA Artist Center that takes care of the young star's career.

INQUIRER Entertainment had spotted Paolo Bediones playing badminton with colleagues Marvin Agustin and Brad Turvey in a fundraising event organized by singer-actress Karylle and her friends in Libis, Quezon City.

6 out of 20

The Star Awards show was held at the Aliw Theater, inside the Star City compound in Pasay City.

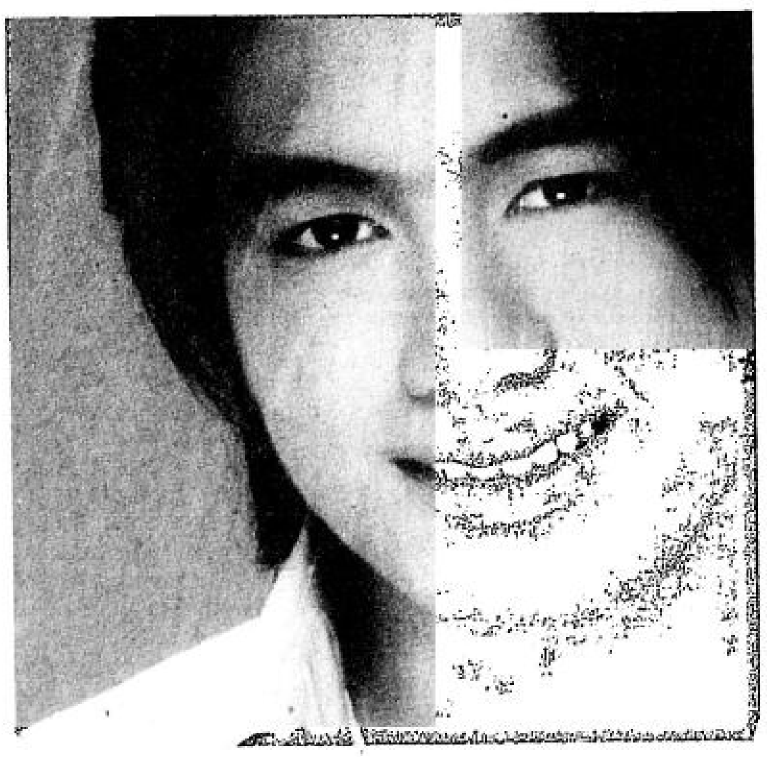
Of the 20 trophies that GMA 7 won last Saturday, only six were received on stage by the network's talents. Ogie Alcasid accepted his awards for best comedy actor and best musical variety show host.

His "Bubble Gang" co-star, Ara Mina, went with him to receive the trophy for best gag show. She also got a solo award for best single performance by an actress for her work on an episode of "Magpakailanman."

Oyo Boy Sotto accepted the Star award for best comedy show, "Dadedidodu," on behalf of his father Vic, who heads the cast of the sitcom. Oyo Boy also escorted to the stage TAPE executive Malou Choa-Fagar, who received the citations for "Eat Bulaga" and "Ikaw sa Puso Ko" as best noontime variety show and daytime drama series, respectively.

TAPE is the producer of the two shows that are both aired on Channel 7.

"Ikaw sa Puso Ko" was recently replaced by "Leya," which stars Oyo Boy.



SHOW TIME

RAINIER Castillo's "I Love You Babe" album tour will bring him to the Ever Grand Central in Caloocan City on Sunday, Oct. 31. On Friday, Rainier's album tour takes him to SM Iloilo. The free show is from Universal Records, in cooperation with GMA Artist. Rainier will be singing selections from his debut Universal Records album and will sign autographs after the show. Free color posters will be given to every buyer of the "I Love You Babe" album.

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It has elicited some very colorful reactions from American audiences:

"A cerebral thriller—there's murder afoot, but we're not subjected to ghoulishly outlandish killings."

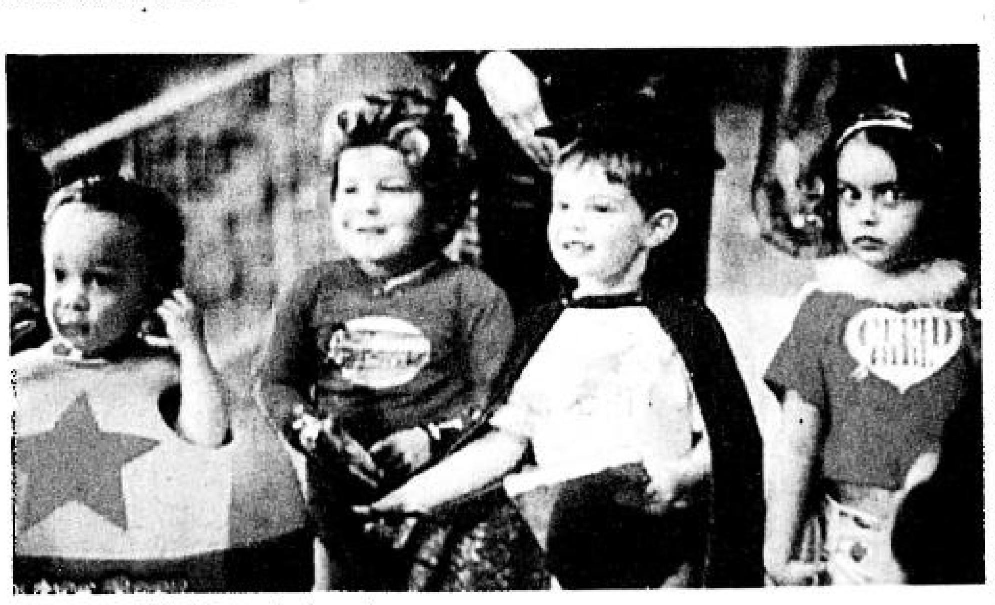
"It's not a bad movie; it's just not a very good one."

"Writer/director Takashi Shimuzu uses his frightening malefactors to excellent effect."

"Is it better than 'Jeepers Creepers'? It's like saying having the flu is better than having leprosy."

"Bill Pullman, for the love of all things holy, why did you sign up for this crap?"

Superbabies: Baby Geniuses



"SUPERBABIES: Baby Geniuses"

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Now this: "Literally the worst movie ever. What could be funnier than racist babies? Who writes this stuff? If I were a child and watched this, I would be scarred for life. What ever happened to good children's movies like 'Surf Ninjas'?"

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2 BEFORE SUNSET	2 THE GRUDGE	2 WHITE CHICKS	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 THE GRUDGE	2 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 CELLULAR	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 BEFORE SUNSET	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3 SECRET WINDOW
4 CELLULAR	4 WHITE CHICKS	4 THE DOLL MASTER	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 WHITE CHICKS	4 HEAVEN'S POND
5 WHITE CHICKS		5 SHARK TALE	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 CELLULAR	5 THE PUNISHER
		6 THE GRUDGE		
		7 CELLULAR		

GB1
GREENBELT 1

1 HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
2 THE GRUDGE

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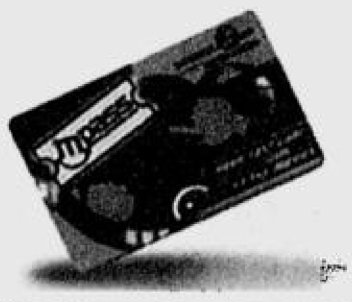

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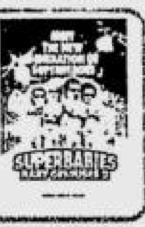
1 BEFORE SUNSET
2 BABY GENUISES 2

BABY GENUISES 2 MTRCB Rating: GP



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BEFORE SUNSET MTRCB Rating: PG 13

SM City Manila Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 11
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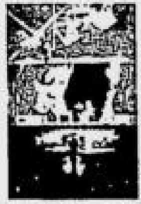
CELLULAR MTRCB Rating: PG13



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SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 5
SM City Fairview Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 3
SM City North Edsa Cinema 5
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 2

THE GRUDGE SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Manila Cinema 4
SM City North Edsa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 6
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 4
SM Southmall Cinema 3
SM Tutuban Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 3
SM Megamall Cinema 9

SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMMOROW

SM Southmall Cinema 6
SM Megamall Cinema 2
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM City Fairview Cinema 7

STEAL SUBJECT TO MTRCB RATING

SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 9
SM Southmall Cinema 8

WHITE CHICKS MTRCB Rating: PG13

SM Tutuban Cinema 1
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 1
SM City Fairview Cinema 5
SM City Sta. Mesa Cinema 3
SM Southmall Cinema 4
SM City Bicutan Cinema 1
SM City Manila Cinema 1
SM City North Edsa Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 8

DOLL MASTER MTRCB RATING: R 13
SM City Manila Cinema 9
SM Megamall Cinema 12
SM City North Edsa Cinema 4
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 6
SM Southmall Cinema 10
SM Supercenter Sucat Cinema 4
SM City Fairview Cinema 12
SM Tutuban Cinema 3
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HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS MTRCB Rating: PG 13
SM City Manila Cinema 7
SM Megamall Cinema 4
SM City Sta.Mesa Cinema 8
SM City Fairview Cinema 9

LADDER 49 MTRCB Rating: PG 13
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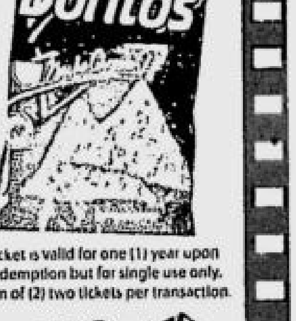

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SM CINEMA
Per BFAD Permit 1056 Series of 2004

Singers wanted

WANTED for a new theme park in Asia: Pinoy musicians and singers.

An international casting team will be in Manila on Nov. 17 and 18 to audition applicants for full-time jobs as entertainers. The theme park will open late next year.

The team wants talents who can perform in a variety of musical styles, for both indoor and outdoor locations across the property. Tapped to help in the search is the San Miguel Foundation for the Performing Arts.

There are slots for musicians who play the piano, harp, percussion (including marching drums, drum set and African hand drum), uptight string bass, electric bass, trumpet, trombone, tuba and woodwinds (all saxophone, clarinet, flute and piccolo).

Interested vocalists may call the enrollment coordinator, Deo Dipasupil, 632-3769.

Audition forms are available at the SMFPA office. Bring a 2x2 full color photo, resumé and, for vocalists, a demo recording of the song/s assigned to the role you are aspiring for, in CD format.

All applicants must be at least 18 years of age. Deadline for enrollment is Nov. 5. Updates will be posted on www.smfpa.com.

Now showing

From page 1

First Daughter

KATIE Holmes running around in a tiny blue bikini, or doing the table dance with a blonde wig, may be enough draw for certain sectors. But if you a looking to find a little part of the actress as she was in "Wonder Boys," forget it.

Critics have been harsh with the director, Forest Whittaker, for his "lack of cinematic vision," but concede that he had some "intelligent ideas," including how he wrote in designated "observers." Watch out for the roommate, the silent guard, and the steward on the plane.

Before Sunset

SLIGHT and fleeting, but described in initial reviews as "well written." Local audiences are almost sure to find it sweet and romantic. Don't be surprised to see every young woman leaving the movie house wearing a silly grin.

One such young woman recounts: "The tone is natural and the romance is not forced; in fact it isn't really that much of a love story. The long conversations are enjoyable and engaging. Men may dismiss it as nonsense, and in part, they will be correct. But it was worth my money, if only for the atmosphere of the whole movie, which left me feeling nice and warm inside."

CHAD & JEREMY AT CENTURY PARK
Chad & Jeremy, the British pop duo that reigned in the '60s, held a press conference at the Atrium Lobby of the Century Park Hotel (CPH) in Manila before their performances earlier this month. Welcoming Chard Stuart (second from left) and Jeremy Clyde (fourth from left) are (from left) CPH director of sales Jessie Rivera, CPH general manger Paul Gill and CPH PR manager Steve Naguiat. Chad & Jeremy later performed for two nights at the Aliw Theater in Pasay City and at the Hard Rock Café in Makati. Century Park Hotel was the concert's official residence.

Tribute album for Aung San Suu Kyi

SHOW STOPPER

NEW YORK—A string of top musicians, including Paul McCartney, Sting and Eric Clapton will launch an album dedicated to Myanmar's pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, calling for the Nobel laureate to be freed.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Suu Kyi has spent much of the last 15 years under arrest.

She was detained again in May of last year and remains under house arrest by Myanmar's military rulers, who have held power in various guises since 1962. *Reuters*

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX
3 Dolby BABY GENIUSES 2 — 12:20 pm 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
4 SDDS THE GRUDGE — 11:20 am 1:45 pm 4:10 pm 6:35 pm 9:00 pm
5 dts CELLULAR — 12:20 nn 2:30 pm 4:40 pm 6:50 pm 9:00 pm
6 Dolby THE DOLL MASTER — 12:40 pm 2:45 pm 4:50 pm 6:55 pm 9:00 pm
7 Dolby ROOM SERVICE — 11:55 am 2:05 pm 4:15 pm 6:25 pm 8:35 pm
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1 THE GRUDGE — 11:30, 1:50, 4:10, 6:30, 8:50, 11:10 — R-13
2 WHITE CHICKS — 10:45, 1:15, 3:45, 6:15, 8:45, 11:15 — PG-13
3 SHARK TALE — 11:40, 1:50, 4:00, 6:10, 8:20, 10:30 — GP
4 BEFORE SUNSET — 12:20, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00, 11:15 — PG-1?

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

BABY GENUISES 2 GP 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:05	BEFORE SUNSET PG13 12:00,2:00,4:00, 6:00,8:00,10:20	WHITE CHICKS PG13 12:40,3:00,5:20,7:40,10:05
THE GRUDGE R13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:10	LADDER 49 PG13 12:10,2:35,5:00,7:25,9:50	CELLULAR PG13 1:25,3:35,5:45,7:55,10:00

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	KARELASYON / NAG-AAPOY NA LAMAN
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	TUKSO SI CHARITO
B	CLOSED
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA 1,2,3 & 4	FLYING DAGGERS / SHARK TALE / FIRST DAUGHTER / WHITE CHICK
PREMIERE THEATRE	LADDER 49
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	LADDER 49
CINEMA-2	TUKSO SI CHARITO 2
CINEMA-3	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HOUSE OF THE FLYING DAGGERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	OPEN WATER
CINEMA-6	THE PUNISHER
CINEMA-7	RESIDENT EVIL. APOCALYPSE
CINEMA-8	EXORCIST. THE BEGINNING
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WHITE CHICKS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	CELLULAR
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOLL MASTER
CINEMA-12	SIN
CINEMA-14	SHARK TAKE
CINEMA-15	SKY CAPTAIN & THE WORLD OF TOMORROW
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	BOURNE SUPREMACY
CINEMA-1	FENG SHUI
CINEMA-2	SECRET WINDOW
CINEMA-4	BANGKOK HAUNTED 2
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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① BEFORE SUNSET — FS 11 10PM 1 20PM,3 30PM,5 40PM,7.50PM — LMF : 10 PM (PG-13)
② GRUDGE — FS 12 40PM, 3PM, 5:20PM, 7.40PM — LMF . 10 PM (R-13)
③ SHARK TALE — FS 11 30AM,1 30PM,3 30PM,5 30PM,7.30PM — LMF : 9:30 PM (GP)
④ WHITE CHICKS — FS 12PM 2:30PM, 5PM, 7:30PM — LMF : 10 PM (PG-13)
PREMIERE THEATRE — LADDER 49 — FS: 11 40AM 2 15PM, 4 50PM, 7 25PM. LMF: 10 PM (PG-13)
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2	BEFORE SUNSET	3	SUPER BABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	4	THE GRUDGE
5	CELLULAR	6	WHITE CHICKS	7	THE SIN
8	SHARK TALE	9	THE DOLL MASTER	10	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2

2	THE DOLL MASTER		BEFORE SUNSET	4	CELLULAR
5	SHARK TALE	6	THE GRUDGE	7	WHITE CHICKS

METRO EAST 682-8193/99 / 682-8280

1	THE DOLL MASTER	5	CELLULAR
2	SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	6	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS
3	THE GRUDGE		WHITE CHICKS
4	LADDER 49	8	STEAL

NOVALICHES 935-3229 / 31

1	HOUSE OF FLYING DAGGERS	5	SHARK TALE
2	STEAL	6	LADDER 49
	WHITE CHICKS		SKY CAPTAIN
4	FENG SHUI	8	THE DOLL MASTER

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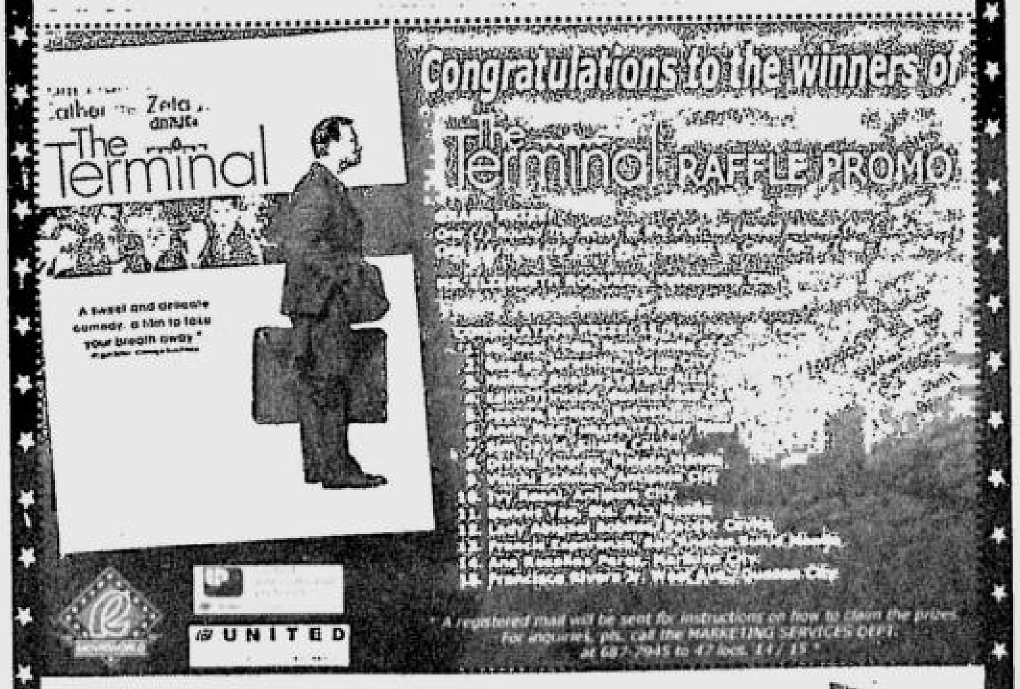
2	DEAD PEOPLE	4	A GOOD LAWYER'S WIFE

CAINTA 240-4661

1	SUPERBABIES: BABY GENIUSES 2	3	INTERNET QUEEN
2	WHITE CHICKS	4	ROOM SERVICE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NOT SHOCKING. The Ricky Lee play, directed by Joel Lamangan, may be shocking to some but not to Armida Siguion-Reyna and other celebrities who have seen it.

'All About Men' repeat tonight

THE CONTROVERSIAL play, "All About Men ... Penis Talks," will have a repeat tonight at 8 p.m. at the Music Museum.

The play, written by Ricky Lee and directed by Joel Lamangan, had played before SRO audiences on Oct. 15 and 16.

"It didn't offend me," said actress and producer Armida Siguion-Reyna, who was in the audience on one of the first two nights, "in the same way that I was not offended by the much touted and internationally acclaimed "Vagina Monologues." "'Penis Talks" is shocking to some, but it definitely is not pornography. I enjoyed the show."

Among the celebrities who have watched "Penis Talks" are Kris Aquino, Boy Abunda, Ben Chan of Bench, Butch Francisco, Cristy Fermin, Elizabeth Oropesa, Chanda Romero, Bibeth Orteza, Calitos Siguion-Reyna, June Rufino, Jeffrey Jeturian, Roselle Monteverde of Regal Films, Jean Garcia, Gardo Versoza, Onemig Bondoc, Iza Calzado, Ciara Sotto, and many others.

The play will be performed in other parts of the country, starting with Cebu and Davao in November.

It stars Christian Vasquez, Jeffrey Hidalgo, Carlo Maceda, Paolo Paraiso, William Thio, Russel Simon, Ricci Chan, Luis Alandy, Douglas Robinson, Angelu de Leon and Jenine Desiderio.

Also in the cast are models Jadel Lee, Gerard Lee, Thomas Wallworth, Rico Bryan Ongcoy, Christian Sarmiento and Marlon Viado.

A joint production of Manny Valera of DMV Entertainment Inc. and Arnold Vegafria of ALV Events International, "All About Men ... Penis Talks" tries to debunk myths about the Filipino male.

Sponsors are Bench Body, Information Gateway, Globe, Propaganda, Crystal Clear Purified Drinking Water, NU 107 and People's Journal.

For inquiries, call Music Museum, 721-0635 or 721-6726; DMV Entertainment, 374-1361 or 415-037; Ticketworld, 891-5610, or visit www.penistalkstheplay.com.

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2 (DOLBY) GRUDGE R-13
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8 RESERVE
9 RESERVE

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2 (SDDS) LADDER 49
3 (DTS) SHARK TALE
4 GOLD (DTS) BEFORE SUNSET
5 GOLD (DOLBY) BABY GENIUSES-2
6 GOLD (SDDS) WHITE CHICKS
7 GOLD (DOLBY) GRUDGE
8 RESIDENT EVIL
9 THE DOLL MASTER
10 SKY CAPTAIN

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2 (DOLBY) WHITE CHICKS
3 (DOLBY) SHARK TALE
4 (DOLBY) BEFORE SUNSET

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Araneta Center
MALL CINEPLEX
Tel. 911-3101 loc. 8242 / 8281 / 8397
3 (Dolby) BABY GENIUSES 2
4 (SDDS) THE GRUDGE
5 (DTS) CELLULAR
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6 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA

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Miss Determination

By Armin Adina

BINIBINING Pilipinas Margaret Ann "Maan" Bayot was still backstage and 14 fellow Miss International contestants had already been called out for the top 15 lineup. This was it, she thought, her greatest fear had come true. She was going home empty-handed and her countrymen would be so disappointed.

Then suddenly she heard, "Miss Philippines, you're in!" Thumbs-up signs were flashed in her direction. "I was surprised, but I was also happy," she said of her commendable finish. Miss International is one of the world's three most prestigious beauty pageants—the other two being Miss Universe and Miss World. She had promised folks back home that she was going to do her best.

The Philippines had failed to make the cut for five years after five consecutive semi-finals slots starting with Alma Concepcion in 1994. But it seemed luck was on Maan's side.

Three previous Miss International title holders had been Filipinas—Gemma Cruz in 1964, Aurora Pijuan in 1970 and Melanie Marquez in 1979. This year, Colombia's Yeimy Paola Vargas, a statuesque black model, bested 57 women from around the world. The Latin beauty is also the first black winner in the pageant's 44-year history. She was crowned World Coffee Queen in Houston, Texas in July.

It was also the first time that the pageant was held in another country, China. It had been based in Japan since 1968. The change of venue would have taken place last year, but for the outbreak of SARS. The year before that, the pageant was almost brought to Hawaii.

THUNDEROUS APPLAUSE greeted Maan Bayot's "cultural" speech
EDWIN BACASMAS

Best speech

"She deserved it," Maan said of Yeimy's victory. They first met last summer in Colombia, where she underwent training. Most of the other contestants were likewise pleased with the results, Maan added. But she recalled that at least two of them—Miss Canada (Adelyn Cupino, of Filipino descent) and Miss Ethiopia—thought she was going to win.

"There wasn't much applause when I was called out to deliver my cultural speech," Maan said. "But when I finished, there was thunderous applause in the whole stadium. Backstage, the girls said it was the best speech, and that I would surely be crowned that night."

While the winners were being announced, in fact, some fellow contestants surrounded her, including Yeimy, who kissed her on the forehead and said, "*Mabuhay!*" But Miss Philippines was not called among the Top 3. Still, Maan said, she was "happy."

It was a tough competition. Two days upon arriving in Tokyo, where preliminary activities were held, Maan almost gave up. So many of the girls were taller and prettier, she thought. But she resolved to fight it out till the end.

Determination is indeed one of Maan's best assets. Not to mention that she has an extensive pageant experience. She placed third in the 2002 Miss Internet WWW pageant in Istanbul, Turkey, and was proclaimed Virreina in the Miss Maja Mundial pageant in Sucre, Colombia last April.

Just have fun

All these tucked under her belt, Maan thought she should just be herself and enjoy the competition. Sure enough, international news agencies caught her in photographs having fun with fellow candidates. Once in China, she immediately attracted the attention of the media and the general public.

"I became close to Miss China, Miss Hong Kong and, of course, Miss Canada," said Maan. "Actually, they were all nice to me." There was one exception, though—Miss USA Amy Lynne Holbrook. "I don't know why, but most of the girls openly declared their dislike of her. Some girls even threatened to walk out if she won."

Thankfully, Amy Lynne just finished second; there was no need to stage a protest.

Now that Maan is back in the country, she will be busy training fellow Bb. Pilipinas winner Ma. Karla Bautista, who will represent the country in the Miss World pageant in Sanya, China this December. Along with Bb. Pilipinas-Universe Maricar Balagtas, who was crowned Miss Globe 2001 in Turkey, Maan will orient Karla on pageant goings-on.

When Karla leaves next month, Maan can finally take a much-needed break. She will turn over her title in February next year.

'SLN' creator wins comedy prize

WASHINGTON—Canadian-born Lorne Michaels, who launched "Saturday Night Live" and generations of stars who brought their irreverent talent to his stage, picked up one of America's top comedy honors, the 2004 Mark Twain Prize at the Kennedy Center.

Cast members old and new joined in feting Michaels, 59, a nine-time Emmy winner whose show transformed Saturday night television 30 years ago.

"For the last 30 years, I've had the coolest job in New York City," Michaels remarked after receiving his award at the end of the evening Monday.

"It is the primary satirical voice of the country," said 1970s veteran Dan Aykroyd, one of many who went on to successful film careers after stints on "Saturday Night Live." Shuffling on the stage and doing a "Blues Brothers" dance, Aykroyd told the audience that the test of success was always trying to make Michaels break out laughing. "We seek approval of this man."

Added current cast member Amy Poehler: "He's a fair and loyal and funny boss. He lets people succeed and fail on their own."

A variety of the show's hosts came to the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, too. Recalling his Saturday night as host in the 2000 campaign, Arizona Sen. John McCain said: "It's the only time I ever impressed my teenage children."

Staying true to Saturday Night Live form, current and former cast members and staff joined Michaels on stage at the end of the show and hugged each other.

Michaels moved to Los Angeles from Toronto in 1968 to work as a writer for NBC's "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In." Seven years later he shifted to New York to begin "Saturday Night Live." Among those featured in the cast in its three decades are John Belushi, Bill Murray, Gilda Radner, Eddie Murphy, Dana Carvey, Chris Rock and Will Ferrell. Al Franken was a performer and writer for the show.

The show, which debuted on Oct. 11, 1975, has won 18 Emmy Awards and been nominated for more than 80. It continues to get the highest ratings of any late-night television program.

Michaels is also executive producer of "Late Night with Conan O'Brien." *AP*

INQUIRER
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Memories

A special supplement on the death care industry

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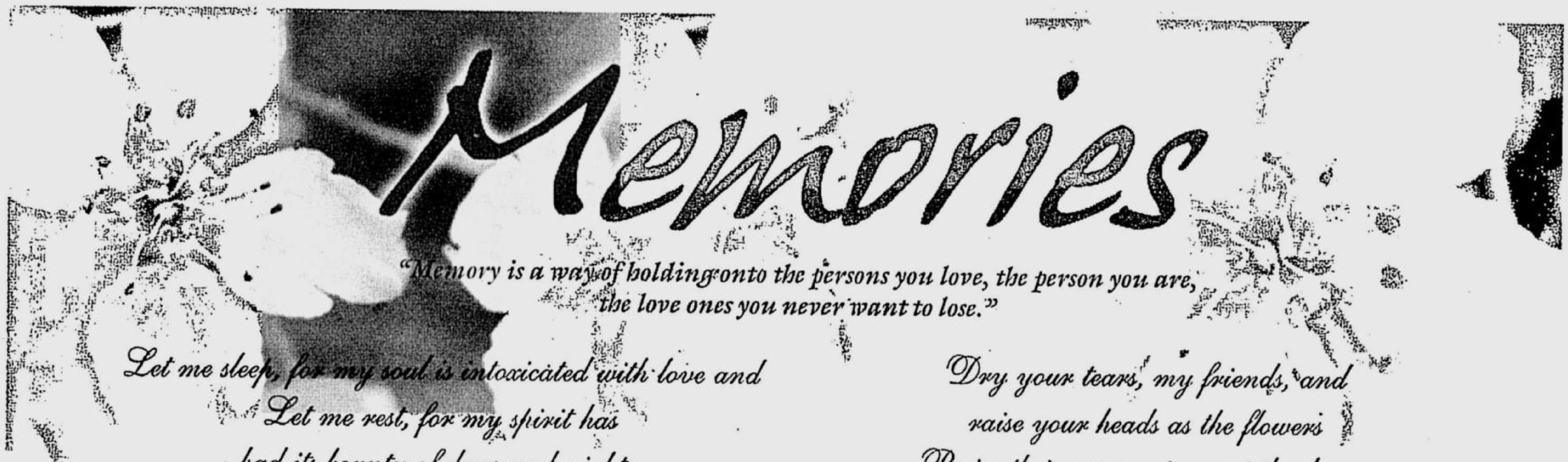


Memories

"Memory is a way of holding onto the persons you love, the person you are, the love ones you never want to lose."

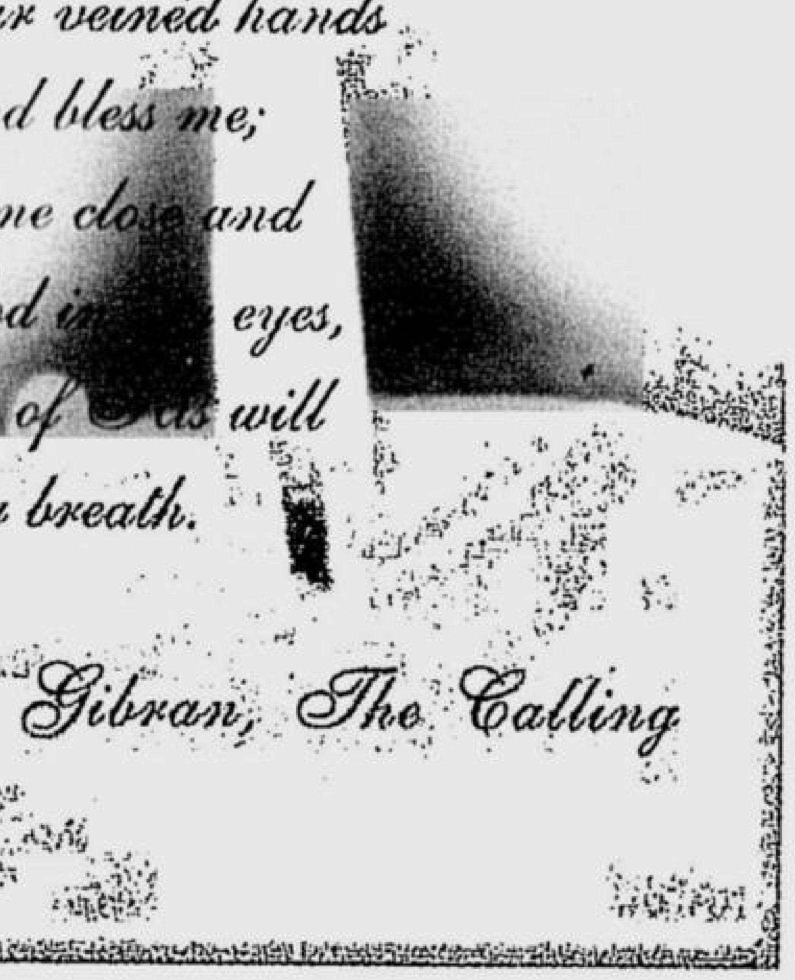
Let me sleep, for my soul is intoxicated with love and
Let me rest, for my spirit has
had its bounty of days and nights;
Light the candles and burn the incense around my bed, and
Scatter leaves of jasmine and roses over my body;
Embalm my hair with frankincense and
sprinkle my feet with perfume,
And read what the hand of Death
has written on my forehead.

Let me rest in the arms of Slumber,
for my open eyes are tired;
Let the silver-stringed lyre quiver and
soothe my spirit;
Weave from the harp and
lute a veil around my withering heart.

Sing of the past as you behold the dawn
of hope in my eyes, for
It's magic meaning is a soft bed upon
which my heart rests.

Dry your tears, my friends, and
raise your heads as the flowers
Raise their crowns to greet the dawn.
Look at the bride of Death
standing like a column of light
Between my bed and the infinite;
Hold your breath and listen with me
to the beckoning rustle of
Her white wings.

Come close and bid me farewell;
touch my eyes with smiling lips.
Let the children grasp my hands
with soft and rosy fingers;
Let the ages place their veined hands
upon my head and bless me;
Let the virgins come close and
see the shadow of God in [illegible] eyes,
And hear the echo of [illegible] will
racing with my breath.



Khalil Gibran, The Calling

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Memories

A special supplement on the death care industry

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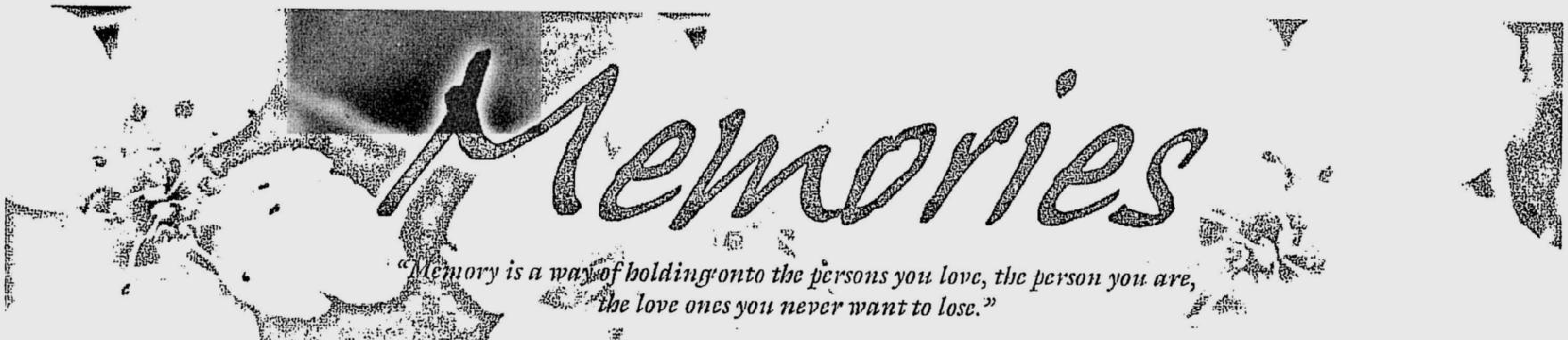

Memories

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And hear the echo of [illegible] will
racing with my breath.

Khalil Gibran, The Calling

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PRUDENTIALIFE MEMORIAL SERVICES GROUP

Gift of everlasting life

ByMarlet Salazar

PREPARING for the future does not only mean having a fat bank account for your retirement. For many people, they begin to realize the importance of planning for their eventual passing. This is not done only for oneself but also to let the ones left behind free from worries.

Prudentialife Memorial Services Group with all its member companies (Prudentialife Life Plan, Inc., La Funeraria Paz, Inc., La Funeraria Paz Sucat, Inc., Tarlac Memorial Park, Inc., Iloilo Memorial Park, Inc. and Afronsa Philippines, Inc.) allows you to plan for the future without hassle.

Their products and services cover most of your needs in these times.

Prudentialife Life Plan protects your family from worry at the time of need, it lets you prepare for a future that is secure and comfortable. Prudentialife continues to be the No. 1 life plan company in the pre-need industry with its sales force working hard to provide innovative life and cremation plans.

Prudentialife introduced the Prudentialife Flexi Plan. It is a fixed value life plan which guarantees the availability of funds and professional administration of memorial services for the planholder at the time of need with value-added benefits such as easy and affordable terms, and the moneyback guarantee and flexible payment scheme.

Prudentialife also has its own Cremation Plan. A pre-need product which provides cremation services with various features such as Family Assistance Fund Benefit, Accidental Death and Dismemberment Benefit among others.

La Funeraria Paz, the nation's pioneers in memorial services, now has a total of 51 chapels in its branches in Araneta, Recto, and Baguio. Paz also offers affordable and flexible memorial service packages. It includes choices of local or imported caskets from wood to bronze, and affordable cremation services and urns.

Its new crematory units offer 24-hour state-of-the-art cremation services.

Paz also offers Professional Counseling conducted but its trained sales and counseling staff who are on call 24 hours a day. They have high level of professionalism and expertise that enables them to give sound advice to bereaved families regarding the right approach in funeral services. One phone call will prompt our attendants to attend to our clients' needs.

MANILA MEMORIAL PARK

Leading the way

By Joel V. Nigos

FOR over 40 years now, the Manila Memorial Park has been leading the way in the eternal or death care industry. Envisioned to provide a final resting place which offers tranquility and beauty both for the deceased loved ones and their families, the memorial park aims to address the real problems when death comes in the family. These problems, found in public cemeteries, such as congestion, lack of order, missing graves and stolen mementos or even remains, not to mention maintenance or the lack of it, often does not help grieving families when they need it most. Rather than bring peace of mind to them, these just compound their woes.

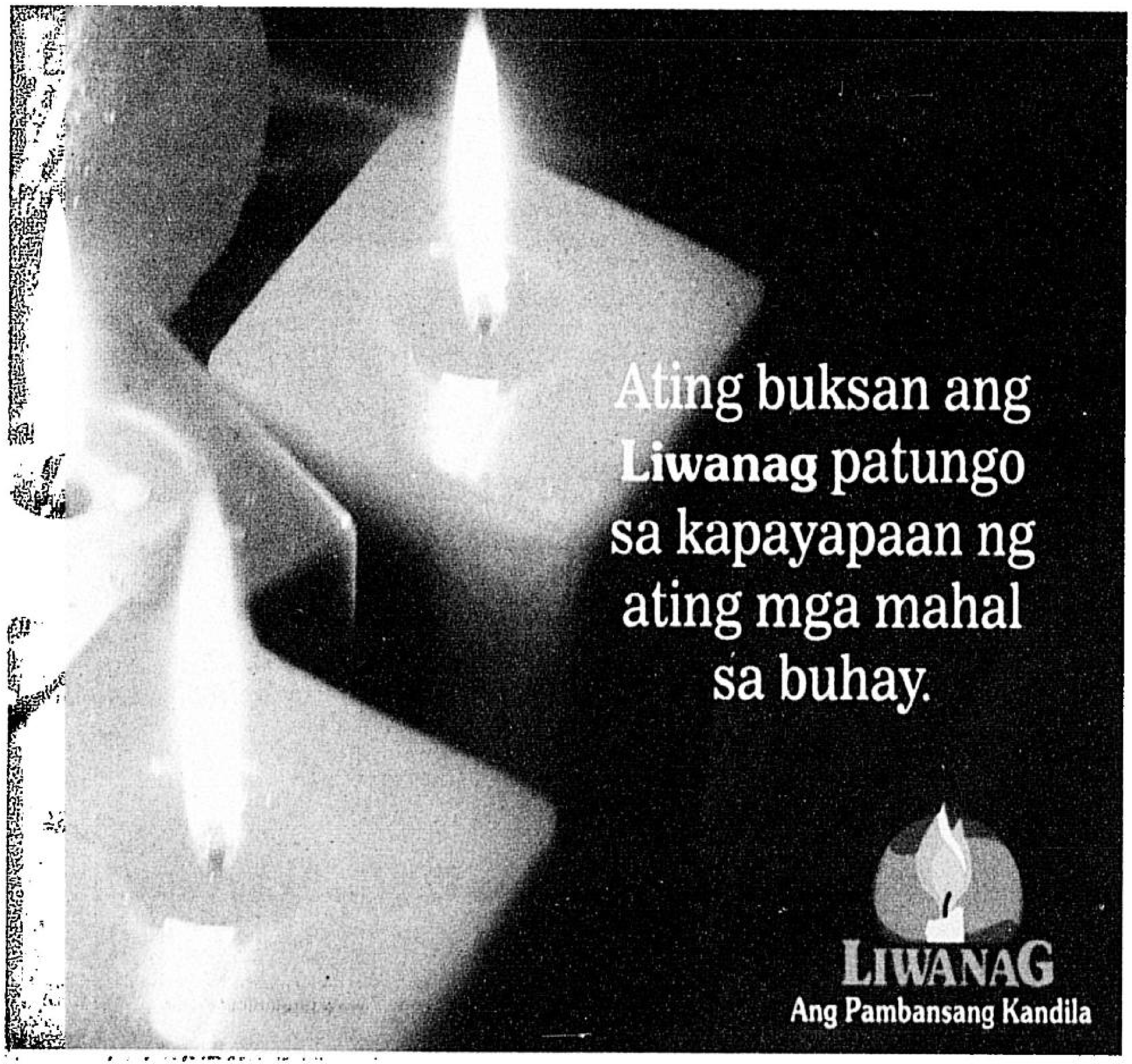
The idea of a memorial park was then conceptualized by a group of Filipino businessmen. Though it was alien to Filipinos then, the public quickly accepted it because of the promise that it offered.

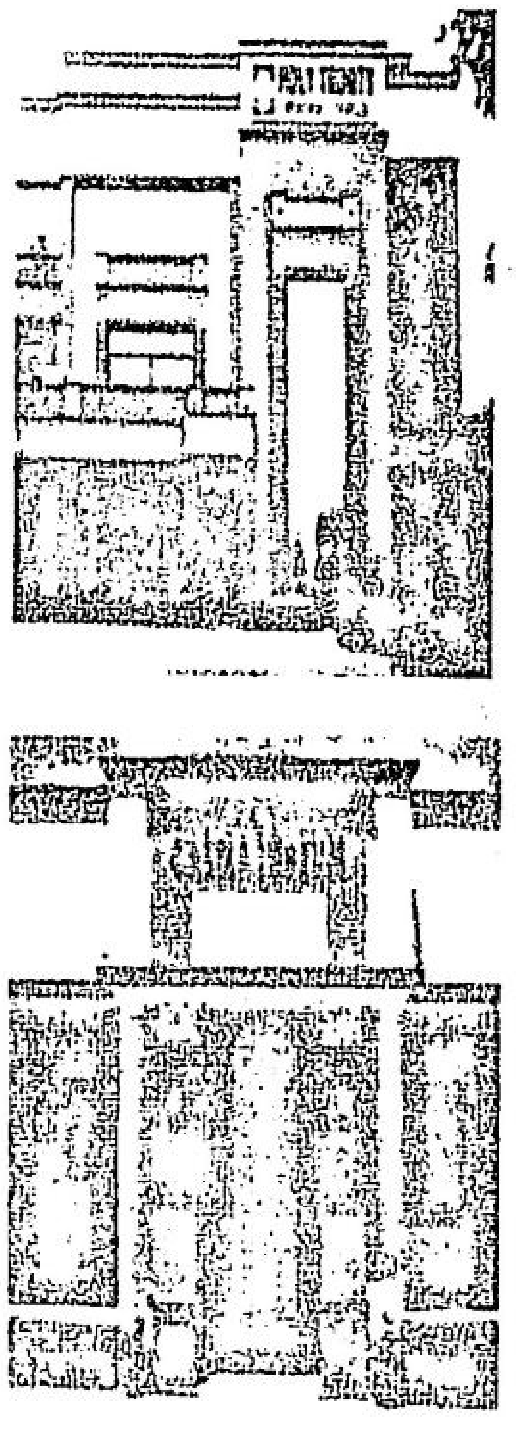
MMP now has an aggregate area of over 400 hectares found in its six beautifully landscaped memorial parks—in Sucat, Parañaque; Holy Cross, Novaliches; Dasmariñas, Cavite; Plaridel, Bulacan; Lilo-an, Cebu, and; Ma-a, Davao City. All these six parks share a common vision of providing a perfect place for reflection and remembrance.

In 1985, MMP pioneered cremation in the country with its very first modern crematory. It now has two crematory chambers on call 24 hours a day.

MMP today introduces another innovation to continue to service its ever-changing customers' needs—the Memorials Plus.

Memorials Plus is a service package which takes care little details that need to be arranged when a loved one passes away. Little details which otherwise would take up every family member's precious time. The package includes flower arrangements, music (musicians, bands, choir, etc.), catering services, balloons and a horse-drawn carriage. Memorials Plus takes care all of these, so the family can have more time with family and friends, in this life's most delicate moments.




HOLY TRINITY
MEMORIAL CHAPEL

(As a subsidiary of Knights of Columbus Fraternal)
Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Parañaque City
Tel. Nos. 825-1291; 825-1296 Telefax: 825-1314

One of the Biggest and
Most Modern
Funeral Homes

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• TOP-OF-THE-LINE FACILITIES
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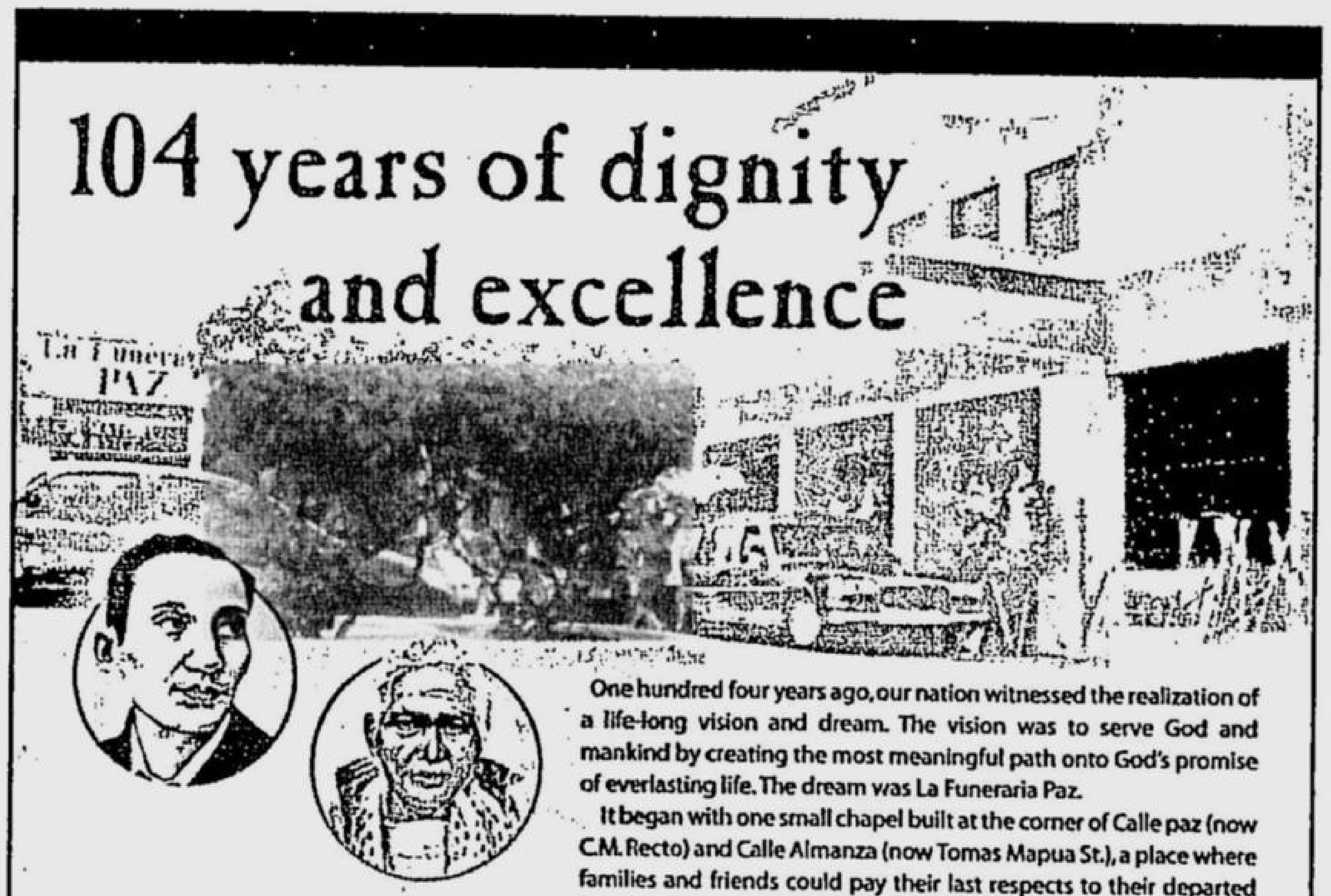
Holy Trinity Memorial
Chapels Crematorium



104 years of dignity and excellence

One hundred four years ago, our nation witnessed the realization of a life-long vision and dream. The vision was to serve God and mankind by creating the most meaningful path onto God's promise of everlasting life. The dream was La Funeraria Paz.

It began with one small chapel built at the corner of Calle paz (now C.M. Recto) and Calle Almanza (now Tomas Mapua St.), a place where families and friends could pay their last respects to their departed loved ones.

Since then, La Funeraria Paz has established a tradition of dignified and excellent service. Today as tradition lives on, it has progressed with 51 chapels: 28 in Araneta, 16 in Recto and 7 in Baguio. As witness to numerous events, having stood the ravages of the Second World War, Paz has remained strong and resilient through the years. La Funeraria Paz continues to set its sights to another century of providing excellent and dignified memorial services.

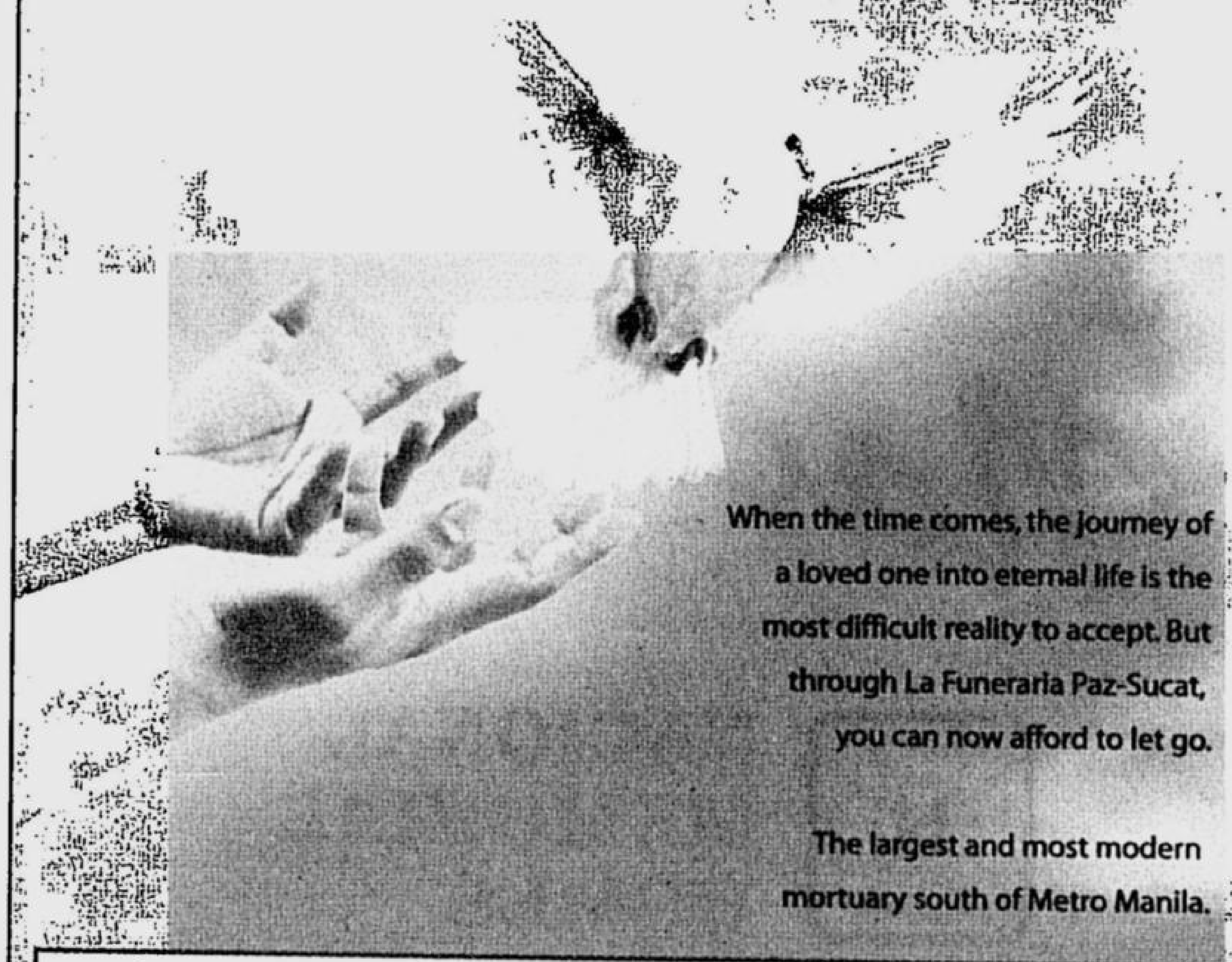
La Funeraria Paz has established a tradition of dignified and excellent service. Distinguished personages Apolinario Mabini and Melchora Aquino were among the first to whom Paz rendered memorial services.

PAZ
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

143 G. Araneta Avenue cor. Kaliraya Street, Quezon City
Tel.: 749-3006 to 11 / 712-3001 / 743-6502 / 743-6505 / 743-6508
Fax 712-2782 Email: araneta@funerariapaz.com

1501 C.M. Recto Avenue cor. Tomas Mapua Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. 711-6931 to 35 Fax 732-2827
Email: recto@funerariapaz.com

79 Naguilian Road Baguio City
Tel. (074) 443-3337 Fax (074) 442-3117
Email: baguio@funerariapaz.com



Now you can afford to let go

When the time comes, the journey of a loved one into eternal life is the most difficult reality to accept. But through La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, you can now afford to let go.

The largest and most modern mortuary south of Metro Manila.

PAZ
LA FUNERARIA PAZ-SUCAT, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Avenue (formerly Sucat Road) Sucat, Parañaque City
Tel. Nos. 825-9947; 825-9930, 825-9949 to 52; Telefax: 820-1592

"Matuto kang maging maayos at di habang buhay nandito ako para alagaan ka."

Ang gusto mo lang namang sabihin, lagi kang nag-aalala tungkol sa kanya. Bahagi na ng iyong pagmamahal ang siguraduhing panatag ang loob ng iyong pamilya.

At kung gaano mo silang kamahal, ganoon mo ring maipagkakatiwala ang iyong life plan sa Prudentialife Life Plan, mas matitiyak mong maaasikaso ang lahat - nang siya'y wala nang iisipin pa kahit wala ka na.

Ang Prudentialife ay may mga produkto at services na babagay sa iyong mga pangangailangan. May higit na 11 billion na trust fund, 30,000 sales associates at 1,000 personnel. Bisitahin ang aming mga branches nationwide. Makakasiguro ka na matatag at maayos ang knabukasan ng iyong pamilya sa Prudentialife.

Prudentialife
Life Plan

Prudentialife Plans, Inc.
Ang minamahal mo, ipagkatiwala mo sa Prudentialife
Prudentialife Building, 118 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, 1220 Makati City
Prudentialife Direct: 864-8000; Text Hotlines: 0917-819-7874; 0918-979-7874
E-mail: helpdesk@prudentialife.com www.prudentialife.com

Honored to have served
8 Philippine Presidents
and the countries
most prominent families.

Nacional
104 Years

NACIONAL
MEMORIAL
HOMES

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Tel. Nos. 713-5231 to 35
Direct Lines 714-0867 to 68 / Fax # 714-0865

It costs no less to get services
from the best.

HOLY GARDENS MEMORIAL PARK
Setting the standards
in Interment Service

Memorable Interment Service
The Holy Gardens Group started the unique interment ceremonies which include the following: audio-visual tribute for the loved one, convoy signs and stickers, Range Rover, BMW or Mercedes Benz family service, ceremonies with music, flowers, balloons, free merienda, free thank you cards, and free colored obituaries with thumbnail pictures. The most recent improvement in the interment service is the Interment Motif.

Leader in the Memorial Park Business
Holy Gardens has been the first to offer an interactive website where customers can take a virtual tour of the memorial park, send e-condolences, offer e-masses, view obituaries, keep track of their payments, and inquire in real-time. HGMP also offers franchising of branches and discounting of memorial park receivables, and instant loan to CO holders.

Most number of Memorial Parks Nationwide
Holy Gardens now has 10 memorial parks spread all over the country - from San Fernando, La Union in Northern Luzon, to Polomolok, South Cotabato in Mindanao.

Amazing All Saints' Day Celebration
An eventful celebration with games, contests, music, and a spectacular fireworks display in all 10 memorial park branches.

www.holygardens.com
Tel No. 651-1711 to 15

THE HERITAGE PARK

The best place for remembrance on earth

By Raquel P. Gomez

The Heritage Park is a multiuse memorial park complex that has modern interment facilities and services, a refreshing park, esthetic landmarks, trees, lagoon and gardens

THE sad, heavy and clinical atmosphere associated with mortuary and crematory facilities is now a thing of the past.

The Heritage Park Mortuary and Crematory in Fort Bonifacio is a new 3,200 square meter facility possesses harmonious design, architecture and interiors, which convey the atmosphere of serenity and warmth, a much-needed comfort for the family who lost a loved one.

There are ten air-conditioned viewing chapels, each can be joined with another to form a bigger chapel to accommodate more people. The chapel is spacious. The family room offers amenities such as TV, ref, sofa and cushions.

Outside the facility is a wide patio with chairs and tables and a nearby coffeeshop. Beyond is a landscaped garden with a small pond and a children's playground.

A welcome to stay

The mortuary and crematory is designed in such a way to somehow make the family's stay an "enjoyable" one, according to Jack Kidwiler, chairman and CEO of Rosehills Memorial Management (Phils.) Inc, the company running The Heritage Park.

"It's never fun or an enjoyable experience when a family member passes away," said Kidwiler. "But we try to make the experience as less painful as possible."

With the opening of the Mortuary and Crematorium, the Heritage Park is now a complete "one-stop shop" for all funeral or interment needs.

A Perpetual Care Park

At the Heritage Park, a family's interment's needs are fully taken care of. Counselors assist a family in private with regard to the final arrangements, from date and location of service, selection of products and interment services.

The family can choose the flowers, cards, casket or urn, tomb labels, food for the guests during the wake, procession procedure either by horse-drawn carriage or car, and the interment spot inside the park's sprawling green grounds.

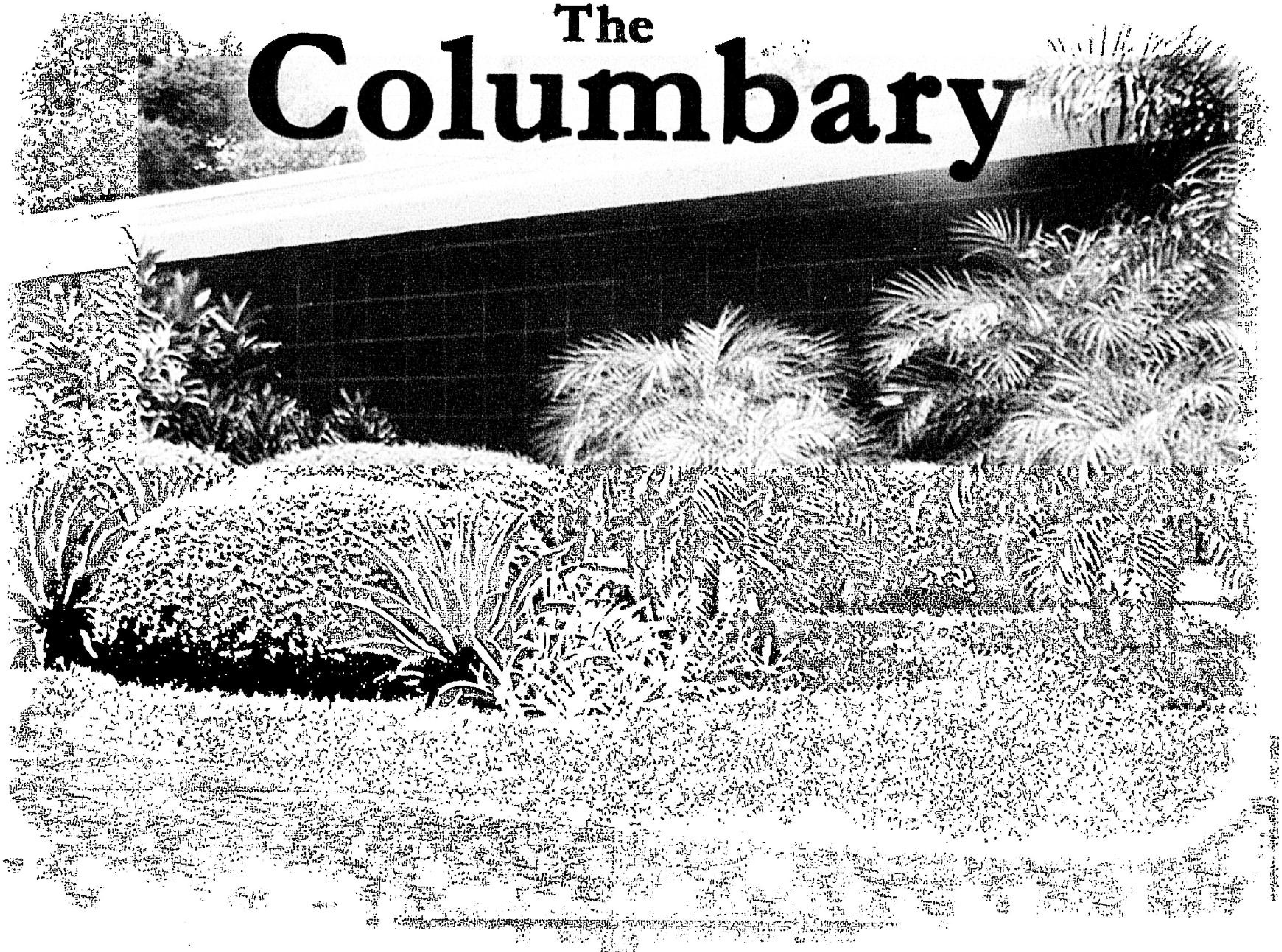
Even after the internment is done, the family need not worry about the upkeep and maintenance of the memorial lot. The Heritage Park is the only memorial park in the country with a Perpetual Care Fund that assures the long-term maintenance, upkeep, care and continued enhancement of the park.

Modern

Occupying a 76-ha of land along the C-5 and Bayani Road inside Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, The Heritage Park is a master-planned, high-value multiuse memorial park complex that has modern interment facilities and services. It has esthetic landmarks and structures such as lagoon for fishing. Trees abound as well as decorative lampposts on the green lawns. The place is truly refreshing for a memorial park that people go here to jog in the mornings.

The Heritage Park is operated and managed by Rosehills Memorial Management Inc., a local affiliate of a leading US-based cemetery and mortuary company.

The Columbary



The Columbary is a modern-day depository
for the cremated remains
of our departed loved one.

A garden of serenity
meant for peaceful remembrance and quiet prayer.
A meaningful investment
that goes beyond financial rewards.

Located at San Agustin Seminary Campus
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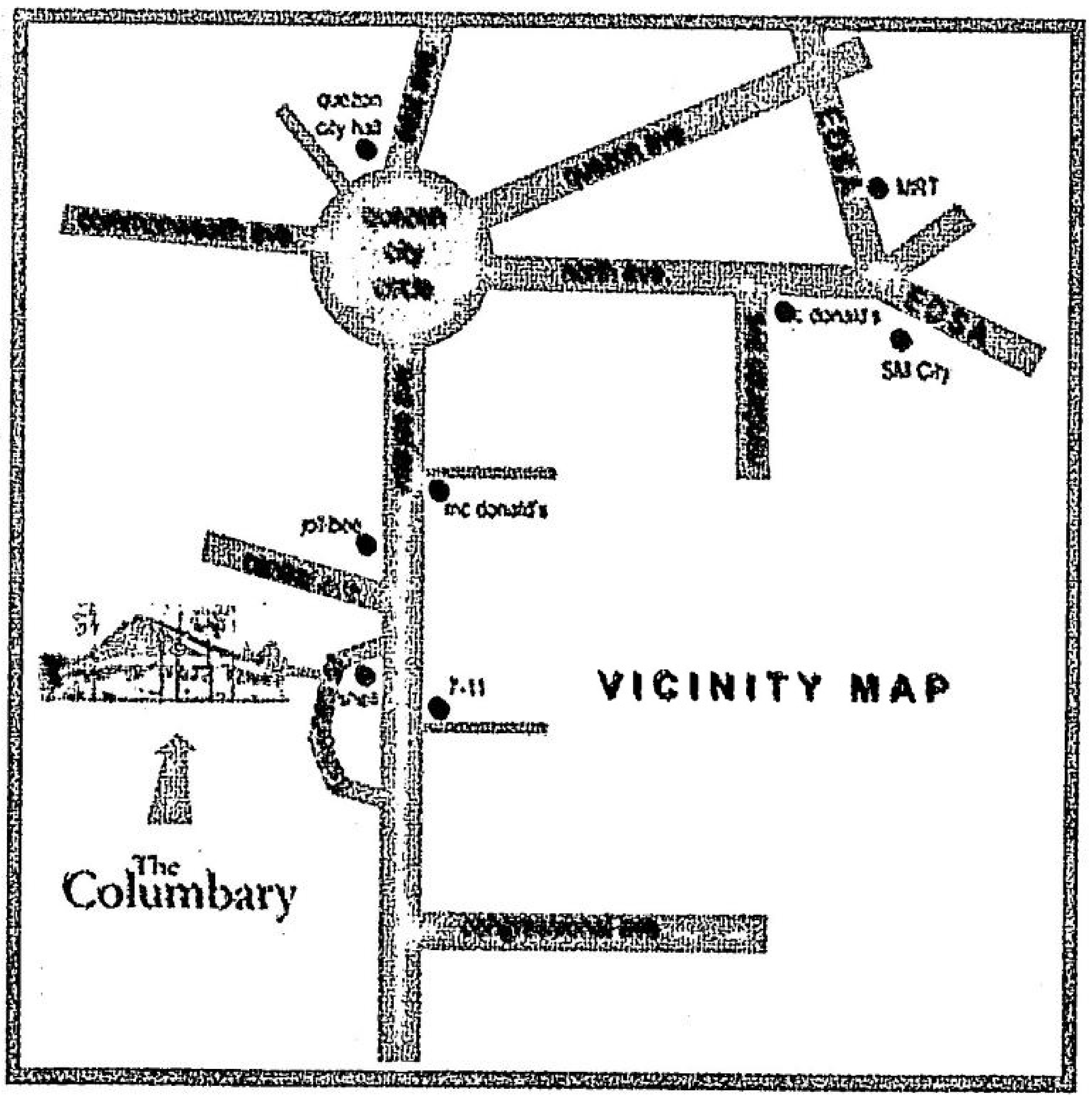
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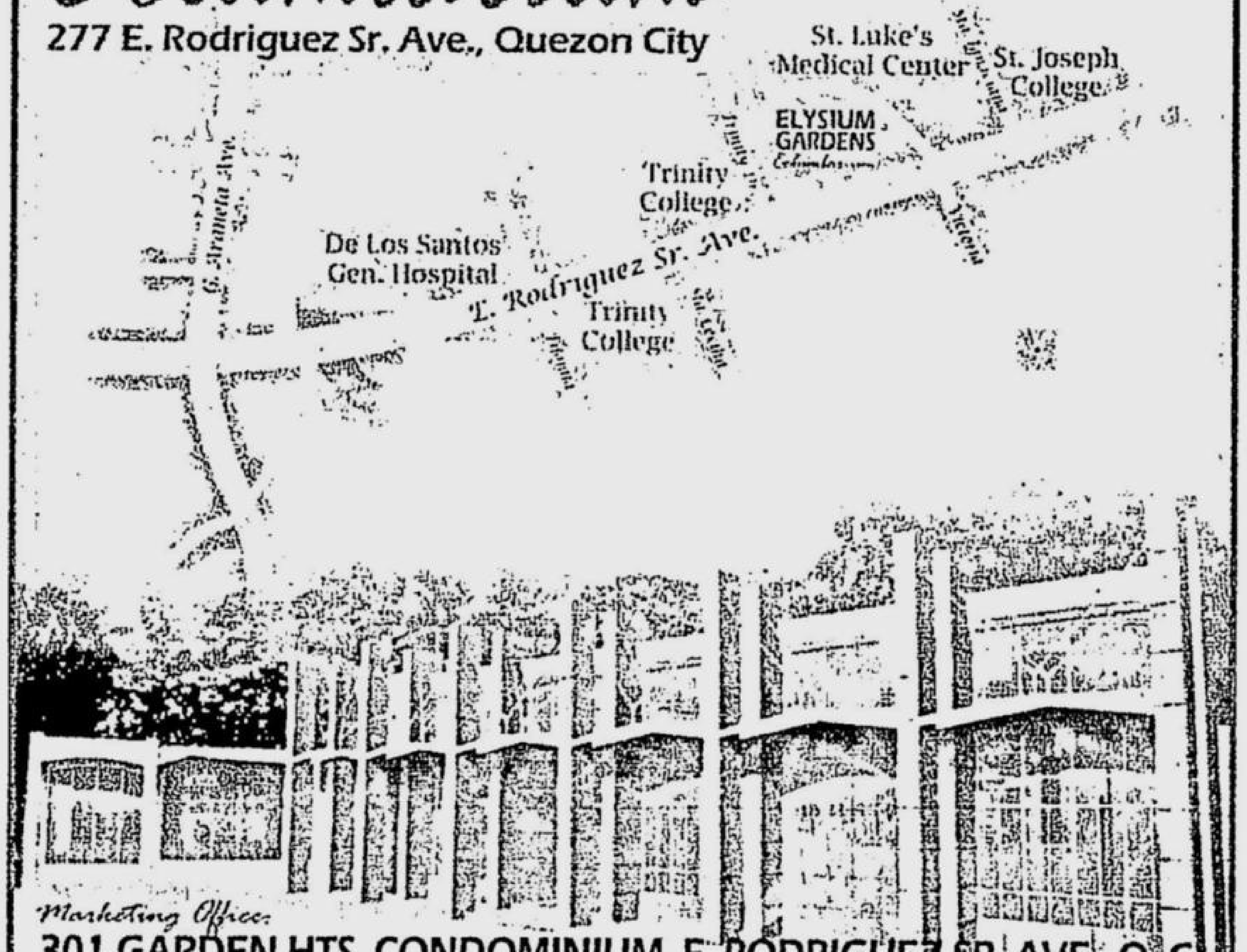
7-11
VICINITY MAP
The Columbary

ELYSIUM GARDENS

Columbarium

277 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City



Marketing Office:

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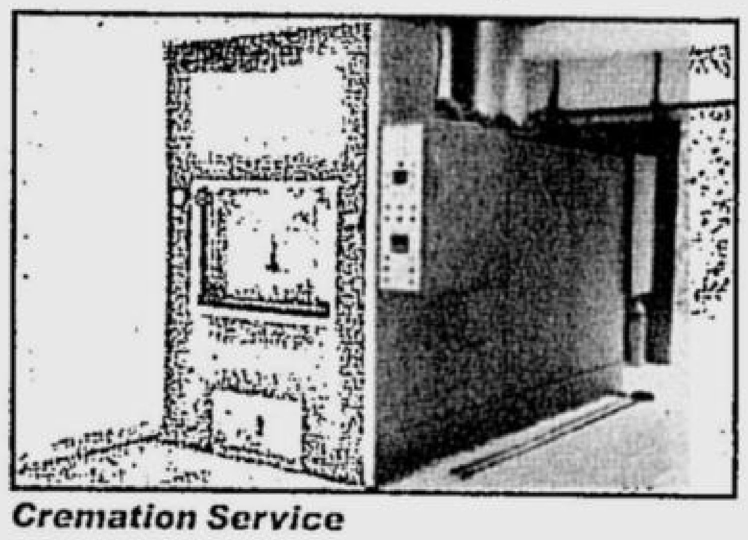
Congratulations on your 36th year of steadfast service to the planholder

LOYOLA

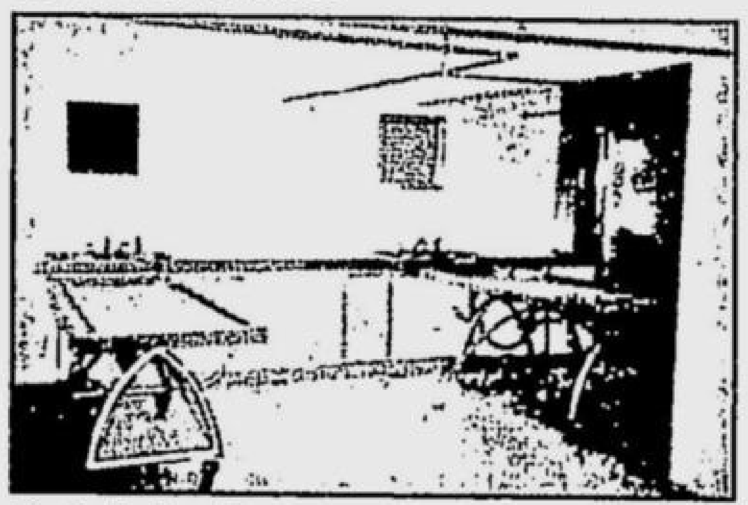
Loyola Memorial Park
Chapels & Crematory Services, Inc.

Complete Memorial Services

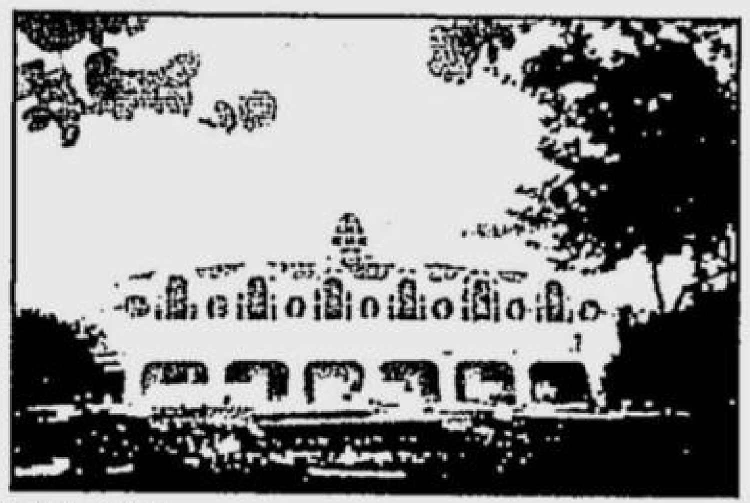


Cremation Service

Viewing Room



Embalming Room



Chapels

Also Available:
Cremation packages
to suit the
family's budget

Loyola Memorial Park
A. Bonifacio Avenue,
Marikina City

Tel. Nos.: 941-3611
941-3731
941-3753
941-3758
Fax: 941-3607

Elysium Gardens

A modern classical design columbarium

TO SATISFY the growing demand of memorials that houses our dearly departed, **Elysium Gardens Columbarium** offers a better alternative by being conveniently located within the New Manila area with ample parking spaces, cafes and restaurants just nearby and free maintenance for those hassle free visitation.

Elysium Gardens Columbarium, a modern classical design columbarium which is conveniently located at 277 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Quezon City, within the Cathedral Heights compound bounded by Trinity College and St. Luke's Medical Center. Construction is on its full swing and is ahead of schedule in its accomplishment.

The Columbarium will have a **Solarium Building** which will feature indoor vaults/ crypts where the natural sunlight passes through its glass walls, and a **Memorial Plaza** that will accommodate outdoor vaults where the serene garden type setting is in harmony with nature and an ecumenical chapel that can be used in memorial services.

This project is jointly undertaken by **BGT Infra & Development Corp. and The Cathedral of St. Mary and St. John.**

For more inquiries call **723-6494 / 723-6335.**

Hearse Rental Corporation

A proven name in funeral transportation

HRC-Hearse Rental Corp is a corporation innitially engaged in renting,loan and lease of tractors,trailers, and other types of motor vehicled and to provide suitable and adequate repairs and maintenance services including the washing,.cleaning, furnishing of oils and lubricant necessary for the operation of all vehicles. It is now engaged in providing full memorial services to clients and provides transportation needs of the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc. Hearse Rental Corp has its main office at Loyola Memorial Park, Administration Bldg., A. Bonifacio Avenue, Brgy Tanong, Marikina City. Hearse Rental Corp has a fleet of (15) hearses, two (2) flower cars and (5)ambulances and is proud in providing the funeral transportation requirements of some of the biggest funeral homes in the industry and dozens of the meduim and low end funeral homes all over the metropolis and nearby provinces. A track record that is enviable considering that it is only on its fifth year of existence.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

Manila Memorial Park

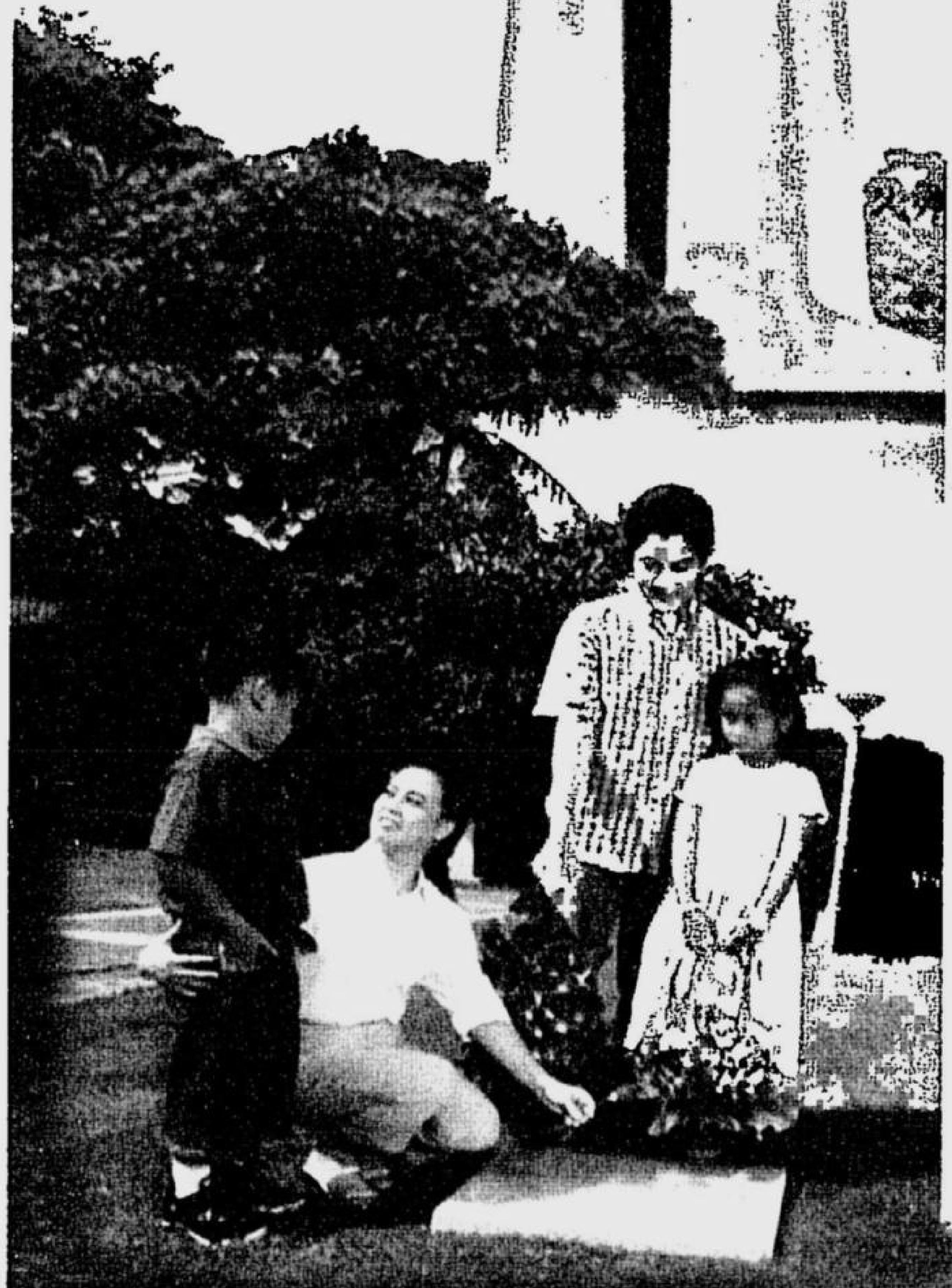
Leading the Way

An Invitation

Manila Memorial Park invites you and your family to come over and visit your dearly departed and celebrate their precious memories, in prayer and fond recollection.

May we suggest you come early to avoid congestion.

Our gates will open 24 hours
beginning October 30
up to November 2.



SUCAT - HOLY CROSS - DASMARIÑAS - BULACAN - CEBU - DAVAO

MMP Home Office (632) 815 1875 or 90 ; (632) 893 8374 to 77

CEBU CITY (032) 255 7230 to 31 (032) 255 7233 to 35 DAVAO CITY (082) 225 0091 to 92

OUR STORY

OLYMPUS Mandaue City, Cebu

Cosmopolitan Funeral Homes has been in the field of deathcare for the past 53 years. Pioneered by Mr. Renato Dychangco Sr., the first branch opened in Cebu in 1951 in a time when horse carriages, then known as "kalesas", were still in use.

Today, Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels has grown into a full-service, state-of-the-art funeral home and memorial service company that focuses on premium products, facilities and quality customer service and value.

The company has come a long way since the 1950's. We stand tall on our experience and our track record of quality performance, innovation and service through the years.

1951 - Junquera, Cebu City
Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels opened its first branch in the heart of downtown Cebu. The business address is located at 16-18 Junquera Street, Cebu City. Through the years this pioneer branch has served as our head office and has seven memorial chapels and suites.

1960 - Villa Abrille, Davao City
Cosmopolitan opens in the city of Davao located in the Villa Abrille area.

1970 - Cagayan de Oro City
On September of 1970, Cosmopolitan established a memorial home, which included three chapel suites

1975 - Danao Branch, Cebu
Cosmopolitan saw the need to set-up a branch in Cebu's neighboring areas. In 1975, another branch was established in Danao, Cebu City

PARTHENON Nivel Hills, Cebu

1975 - Mandaue City, Metro Cebu
Cosmopolitan started a small operational chapel in the vicinity of Mandaue as a transition into a fully operational funeral home

1976 - Lapu-Lapu City, Metro Cebu
In 1976, an opportunity to open in Lapu-Lapu was offered and another memorial chapel was established.

1980 - Argao, Cebu Province
On February of 1980, Cosmopolitan opened in Argao to service the needs of the local community

1981 - Iligan City
Cosmopolitan Memorial Homes in Iligan City features three chapels and offers affordable alternatives.

1984 - Bogo Branch, Cebu
Located at the tip of the island of Cebu, Cosmopolitan Bogo provides funeral services to the provincial community at affordable prices and packages.

1990 - Carcar Branch, Cebu
Cosmopolitan Carcar is servicing patrons in need of funeral services and caskets

1991 - Calinan, Mandaue City
Located in the middle of the highway, the branch opened to serve and assist in the needs of bereaved families.

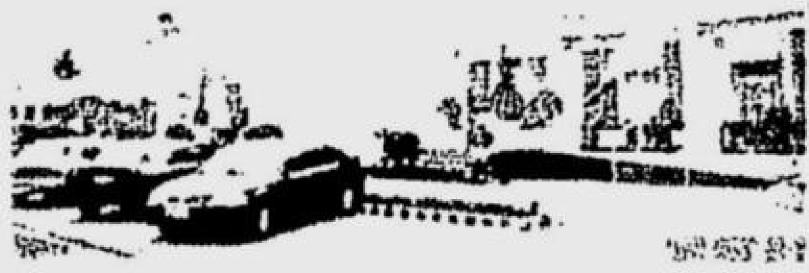
1992 - Nivel Hills, Cebu City
The Cosmopolitan Nivel Branch resonates of world class character and state of the art systems and technologies. The memorial home boasts of six luxurious chapels, a business centre & counseling facilities

1995 - Valencia, Bukidnon
Cosmopolitan Bukidnon caters to local residents with a fully functional building and offers 2 chapel rooms.

2001 - Ibabao, Mandaue City
The Ibabao Mandaue branch was inaugurated in November 2001. It was said that it "boasts of class and character". The Mandaue branch holds five luxurious chapel suites

2002 - Camus, Davao City
The Camus branch is Cosmopolitan's pride in the Mindanao region. The branch opened in November 2002. The facilities include 18 spacious and luxurious chapels. "All the facilities and necessities can be found in a five star hotel" as quoted the Sun Star Daily Davao.

ACROPOLIS Camus, Davao City



EPHESUS Junquera, Cebu City

COSMOPOLITAN MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Cosmopolitan Memorial Chapels, Inc.
"Bridging Life to Eternity"

Main Office: 16-18 Junquera St., Cebu City
(63-32) 256-0491 to 94
Fax (63-32) 255-2652

The Dodge
Batesville

The Pacific Center for Mortuary Studies
RSD Resources International
Nivel Lahug Cebu City 6000

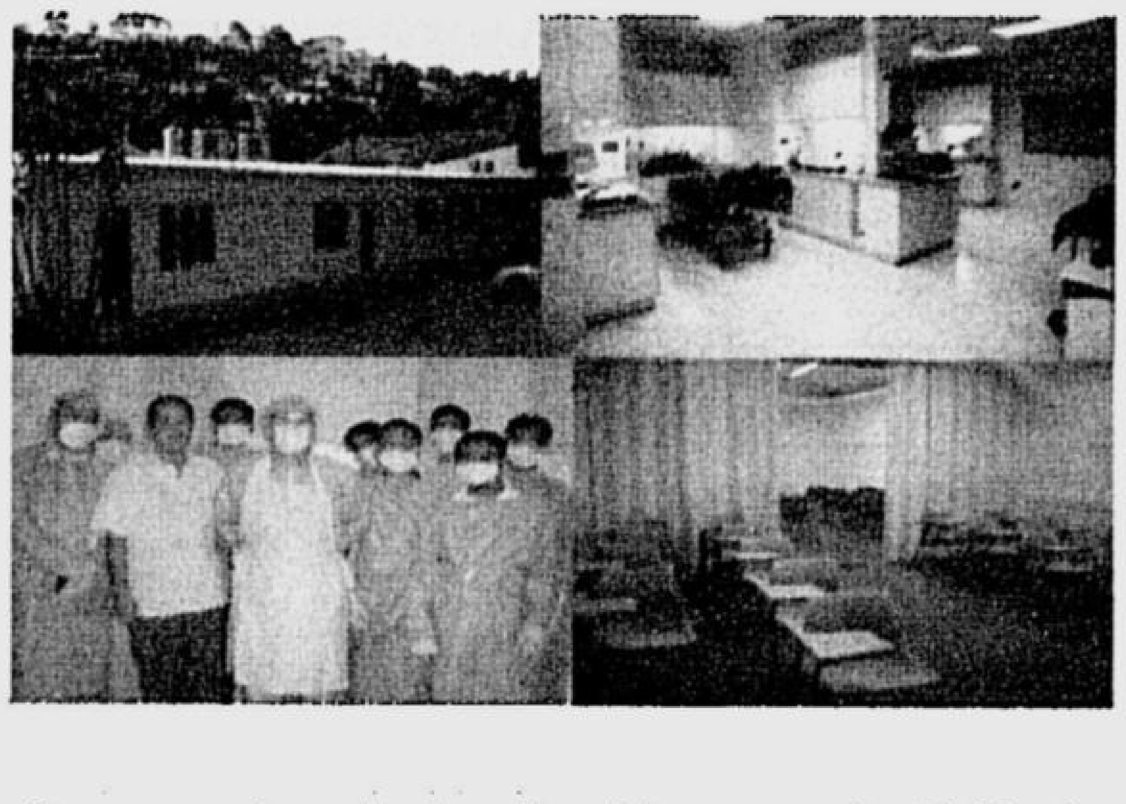
Cosmopolitan unveils franchise support products and services

COSMOPOLITAN Memorial Chapels, a pioneer and market leader in the Philippine deathcare industry, will be presenting some of its major projects in support of its recently launched franchising initiative at Silent Moments 2004, an exhibition on the Philippine deathcare industry this October 8-9 at the Forum, PICC, CCP Complex, Pasay City.

Among the many Cosmopolitan exclusive products and services to be presented are products from Dodge Chemicals, international market leader for embalming and restorative chemicals and equipment, Batesville Caskets Inc., the leading casket manufacturer in the world, and the Pacific Center for Mortuary Studies, the only mortuary science training facility in Asia. Cosmopolitan franchisees will have full access to these exclusive products and services as part of their franchise package.

"We wanted to provide an excellent support system for our franchisees so we're giving them international-standard product and training support. With the proper tools and training our franchisees will have all they need to make their franchise a huge success," says Renato "Oly" Dychangco, President and CEO.

Cosmopolitan's franchising company, Cosmopolitan Cares, was launched earlier this year at the Philippine Franchise Expo last July 2004. Investor interest proved greater than expected.



With the introduction of truly professional products and skill training, Cosmopolitan reaffirms its commitment to providing only the best to its franchisees and clientele. Interested franchisees may direct their inquiries to Cosmopolitan's Franchise office at 032-231-0721.

LIWANAG CANDLE

'Ang Pambansang Kandila'

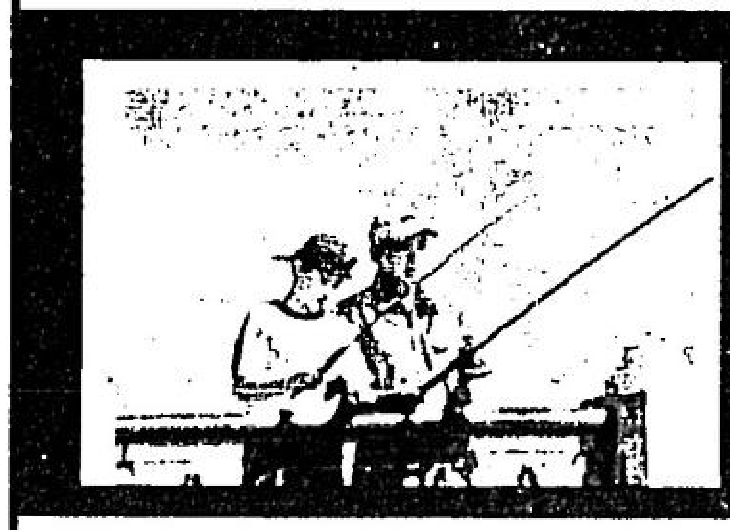
LIWANAG CANDLE is now on its 40th years of service giving light to the nation. Being known for its high quality candle and best in service they are consistent in getting the prestigious awards from National Consumers Choice Awards: (1) Top Candle Brand- National Consumers Quality Awards: August 2004 (2) Outstanding Candle Brand- Family Product Excellence Award: June 2004 (3) Top Candle Brand of the Year: 20th Annual Year-ender Excellence Awards: December 2003 (4) Most Outstanding Candle Brand: Consumer Choice Awardee: October 2003 (5) Top Candle Brand: 19th Annual National Consumers Quality Awards (6) Outstanding Candle Brand: 2003 Asia-Pacific Excellence Awards: May 2003 (7) Top Candle Brand of the Year: National Consumers Choice Awardee: December 2002 (8) Grand Prize Winner 2002: First Philippine Candle Design Competition: December 2002.

We are assuring our consumer that we will be continuously providing them the best quality products and best consumer service. Consistent product innovation and improvement is being done to meet and satisfy the market's demand.

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO

A Celebration of Life 2004

The Heritage Park once again invites one and all to join and be a part of A Celebration of Life '04 and give tribute to our dearly departed loved ones. This year's roster of activities promises to make the experience a memorable one for all.



Oct. 31-Halloween Night Family Fun

5:30 pm: Trick or Treat
Go trick or treating with Mom and Dad through the Park. Halloween fun guaranteed for the whole family as games and cool prizes await those who join.

6:00 pm: Outdoor Musical Concert
Featuring Flintstones and the Gang Listen to party band Flintstones and the Gang perform covers of popular songs from the 60's, to the 90's.

Nov. 1-Tribute and Remembrance on All Saints Day

10:00 am: Eucharistic Mass and Blessing of the Graves
The solemn day of remembrance begins with the celebration of the Holy Mass at The Heritage Park chapel. The blessing of the graves promptly follows.

2:00 pm: Christian Service
To be held at The Heritage Park Chapel

5:00 pm: Inspirational Talk and Candle Lighting Ceremony
Listen to Reverend Father Mario Sobrejuanite as he discusses the beauty and joy of the human experience in an inspirational talk called "A Purpose Driven Life". Later join The Heritage Park community and participate in the moving experience that is the Candle Lighting Ceremony.

6:00 pm: Outdoor Movie Screening
Gather the whole family and cap the day by watching a handpicked selection of films the whole family can enjoy.

Regular Activities from October [illegible] to November 2
The Heritage Park also has prepared several regular activities that friends and family are certain to enjoy.

Fishing at the lagoon: Test your angling skills by registering and participating in one of The Heritage Park's most awaited events. Prizes will go to the lucky angler who catches the biggest fish.

Kite Flying: See how your kite designs and kite flying skills stand against the Park's legendary winds

Face Painting: Join the fun by participating in The Heritage Park's Face Painting activity.

Feng Shui consultation: Former president of the International Institute of Chinese Esoteric Sciences Studies Professor Charlie Chao shall be on hand from Oct. 31 to Nov. 1 to offer his expertise on Chinese Geomancy.

Food Fair: Satisfy your taste buds right inside The Heritage Park. Experience the yummy treats offered by the various food concessionaires which will be open for business for the 3-day event.

Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio
Taguig, Metro Manila 16[illegible]
(632) 84[illegible] loc. 109/12[illegible],
(632) 84[illegible] or (632) 84[illegible]
[illegible]

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[illegible]

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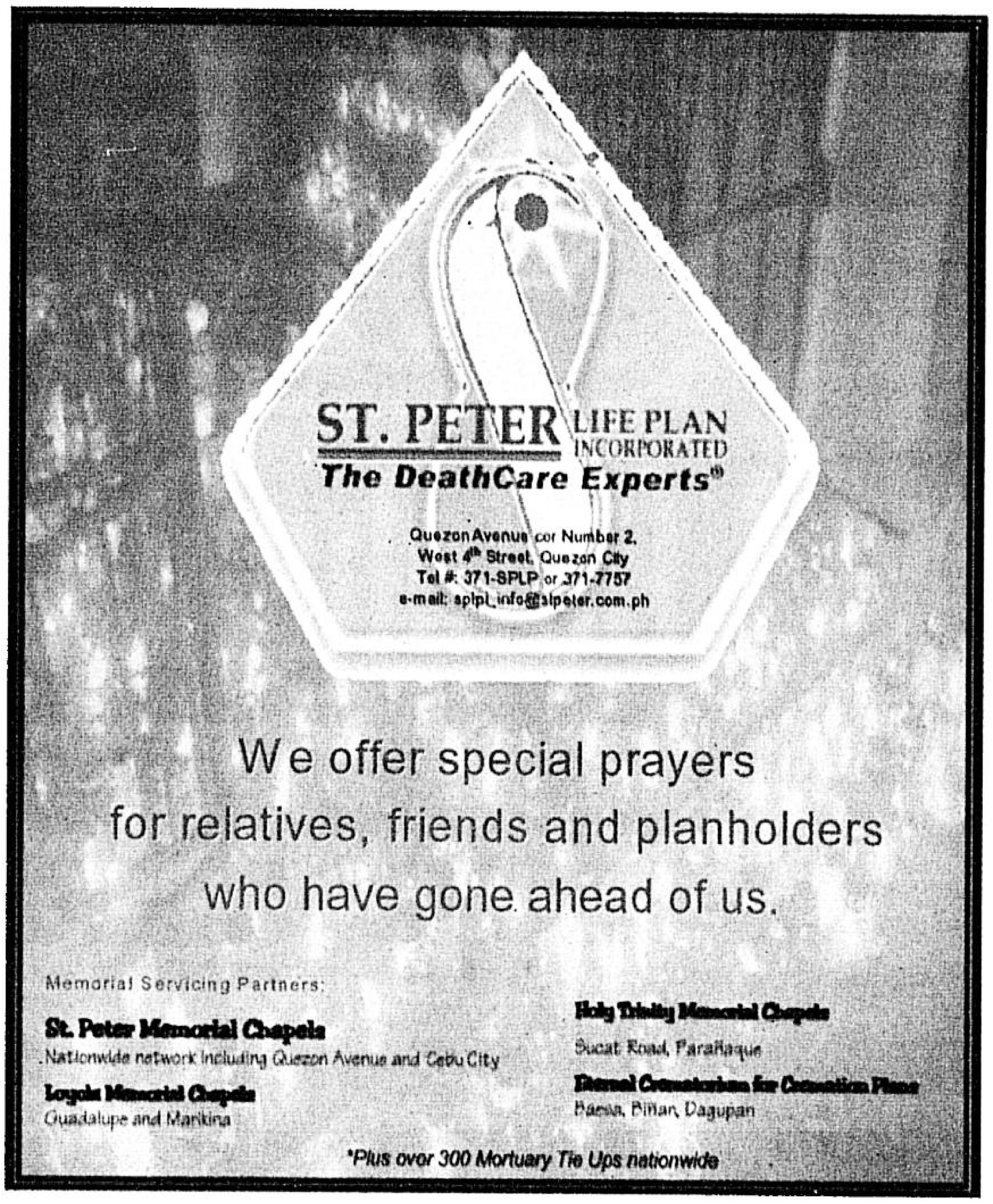

ST. PETER LIFE PLAN INCORPORATED

The DeathCare Experts®

Quezon Avenue cor Number 2,
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Tel #: 371-SPLP or 371-7757
e-mail: splpl_info@stpeter.com.ph

We offer special prayers
for relatives, friends and planholders
who have gone ahead of us.

Memorial Servicing Partners:

St. Peter Memorial Chapels
Nationwide network including Quezon Avenue and Cebu City

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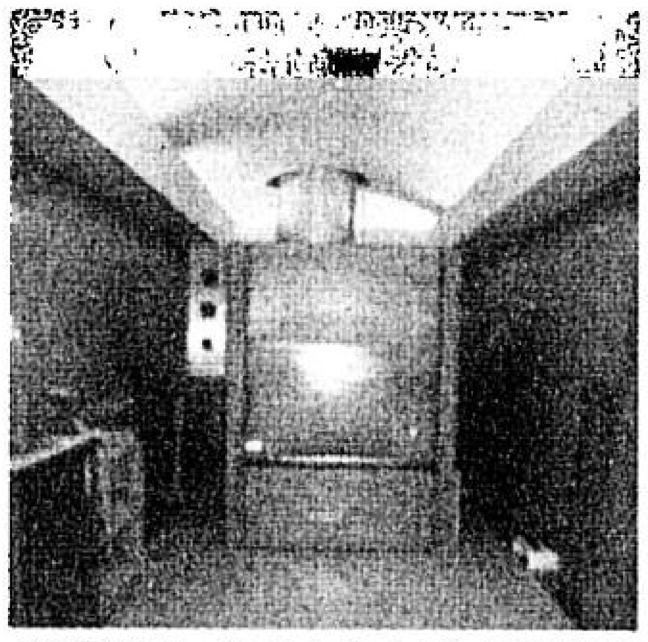

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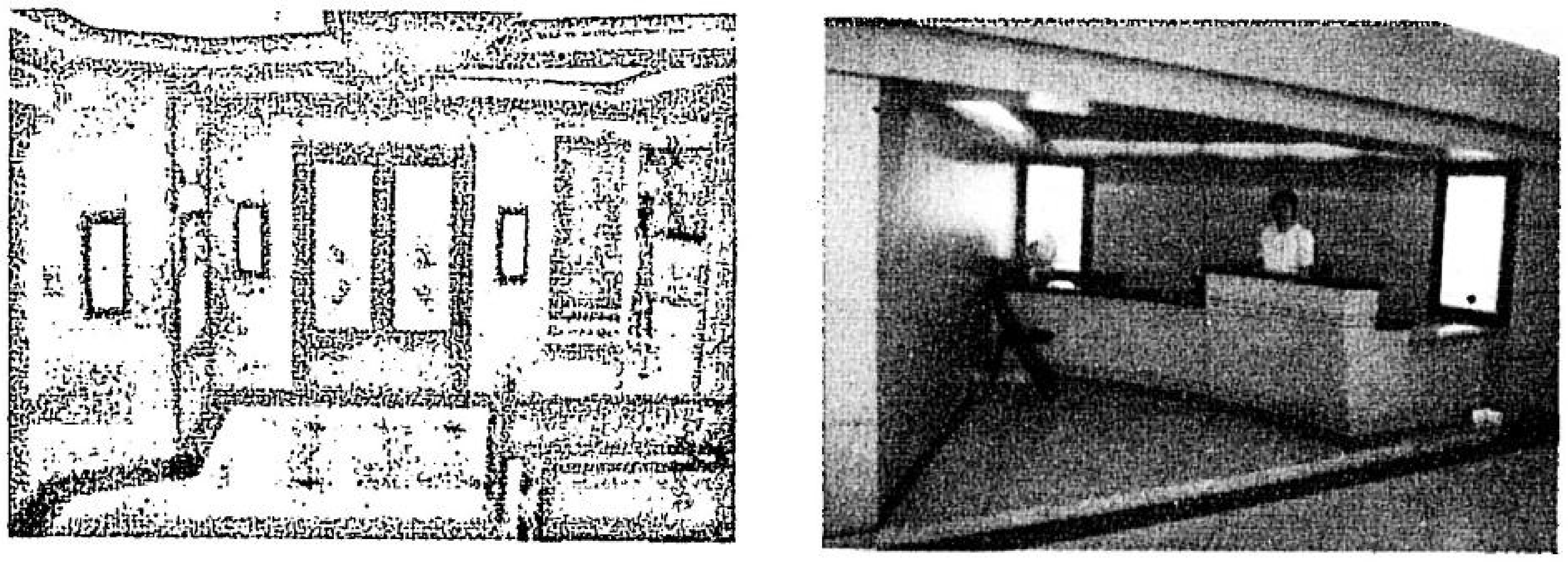

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Innovative services for our deceased loved ones

By Joel V. Nigos

ARLINGTON Memorial Chapels Inc., which started servicing clients in 1982, can be considered new in the business when compared to other funeral firms in the country.

But its supposed "newness" in the industry does not hinder the company to offer services that are considered the best in the industry, not to mention innovative.

Reason why it serves over 2,000 families a month or on the average about 180 per month. This makes it one of the top funeral firms today.

From its original home in Rizal Avenue, Manila, to its transfer to its present home in Araneta Avenue in Quezon City, Arlington always has aces up its sleeve to serve the demand of its changing market.

Some of the innovations that it offers today include the memorialization for the dead, the holding of wakes away from the funeral chapel, tie-ups with hotels, the use of technology, among others.

Memorialization for the dead, the only one in the industry, is a way of giving tribute to the deceased by depicting his life from his youth to his golden age. This would give visitors to the wake, who are paying their last respects, idea to the life the deceased has lived during his time on earth.

Arlington also takes advantage of the use of technology. Here, visitors can sign guest books using electronic boards where immortal moments of the deceased are flashed on the screen.

Another is the holding of a wake away from the usual funeral chapel. Arlington uses garden setting, a break from the monotony of most funeral services.

To expand this concept, the company is investing P150 million for the construction of the Araneta Garden Villas, also in Quezon City. This will have four exclusive garden villas in a two-story building situated on a 2,400-meter lot.

The company is also negotiating with two nearby hotels for possible tie-ups. Company officials wanted a place for families who have wakes at the funeral chapels.

Arlington was founded by the late Nestor Lopez Jose. When he passed away in 1992, his children continued his legacy. At present, the five siblings—Cynthia, Cristina, Menchie, Carrie and Raffy—have joined together to run the company combining their various expertise in the fields of medicine, advertising, marketing and psychology.

MMCI: A full service mortuary

MARIAN Memorial Chapels is a full service mortuary. Marian Memorial Chapels, Inc. (MMCI) runs Marian Memorial Chapels and it has been in this field of expertise for over thirteen (13) years. It was established as a single proprietorship in 1991 and was incorporated in 2001.

Marian Memorial Chapels is situated along Marcos Highway, Antipolo City, which is around the vicinity of Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall and several subdivisions and villages, the likes of Filinvest East, Town and Country Exec. Vill., Vermont Royale and Vermont Park.. It houses several chapels, which can accommodate over a hundred family members and visitors per chapel at any given time. Each chapel has its own air-conditioned family room with sofa bed and comfort rooms. Currently, additional three (3) viewing chapels are being constructed on its garden wing.

It also provides funeral services to adjacent subdivisions/villages and barangays within Rizal province, to other cities/municipalities within Metro Manila and to all provinces nationwide. Marian Memorial Chapels can also accommodate and facilitate services overseas, inbound and outbound.

Crematory services at La Funeraria Paz

By Joel V. Nigos

CONTRARY to perception that cremating our deceased loved ones is an expensive process, La Funeraria Paz offers crematory services that are not only affordable but also a practical way of interring our loved ones.

With the high cost of burying our dead the "traditional way," the mortuary believes that cremation is the answer to families when the unexpected happens. With cremation, grieving families need not worry about memorial lots or memorial parks, they only have to secure an urn where they can place the deceased's ashes.

La Funeraria Paz offers crematory services not only for human remains but also for exhumed human remains. There are different rates for adults and children and also for the exhumed human bones.

Cremation rates at La Funeraria Paz can be as low as P10,000 for human remains if the cremation service is done during regular hours, which means from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. There would be additional charges if the cremation were done beyond these hours.

Cremation rate for a deceased child is only P6,500, the same rate it charges if what's going to be cremated are exhumed human bones.

There are also a wide variety of choices for urns where the family can place the ashes of their deceased loved ones. Urns can be local or imported and can be made of marble, wood, metal, porcelain or brass. Cost varies from P2,000 to P30,000. Urns, which are made from imported special metals, are the most expensive.

La Funeraria Paz began servicing the growing cremation market in 1995 when it acquired two crematory units. The mortuary used to cremate only one human remains a day but now it cremates an average of five per day. Used to be accepted only by the upper class AB groups, the process now starts to gain wider acceptance. The mortuary now also serves a growing class C market.

La Funeraria Paz has over 100 years of experience in the eternal or death care industry. Its first mortuary, which continues to service grieving families this day, is located at C.M. Recto Ave. The mortuary at Araneta Ave. was established during the 1970s while another one in Baguio was during the 1990s. It also services clients inside the Manila Memorial Park in Sucat, Parañaque, for about three years now.

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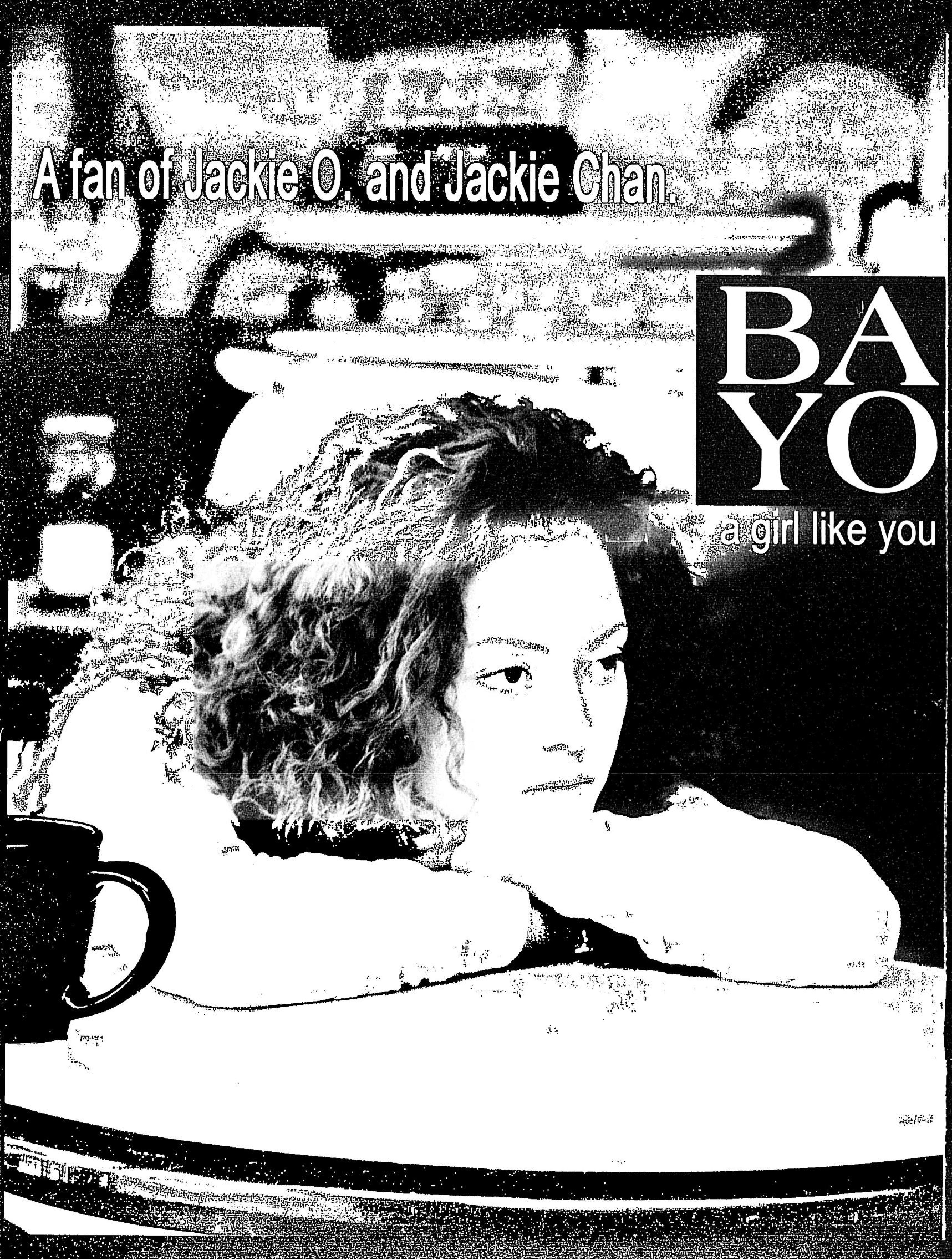
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup **HENRI CALAYAG** of H-Salon


A fan of Jackie O. and Jackie Chan.
BA
YO
a girl like you

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez
Lost 20 lbs
Marjorie Barretto
Lost 10 lbs
Carmi Martin
Lost 7 lbs
Gina Alajar
Lost 7.5 inches of flab

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MAKATI ORTIGAS TIMOG BINONDO ALABANG SHAW CONGRESSIONAL PAMPANGA CEBU

With Don-Don of Bibliarch, shopping for books and wrappers (the coolest ones by far).

creative director
JENNI EPPERSON

design
COI SAMOTH
fashion assistant
KATRINA CRUZ
columnist / writer
AMINA ARANAZ

Philippine Daily Inquirer Lifestyle Editor
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO

copy editor
ELVIRA MATA

I'll be in the mall, err, home for Christmas...

You can count on it! Since we entered the ber months, I have been in full-time *mall-ing* mode. As if I'm not in the mall enough, but this time it's more than my usual window-shopping, sourcing and the occasional splurges. I spend more time looking for and buying Christmas gifts for my cute, loyal friends, family, and of course, to share my finds with **JUST SHOP** readers. As it turns out, I'm not the only one busy *mall-ing*. My shopping buddy, Super! Creative Director **Tim Yap** has become an honorary *JUST SHOP-PER*, for taking time out from his crazy schedule to do a special section, **JUST SHOP For Him—FLIP IT!** (Literally flip the magazine to read).

I love gift-giving. It's one way of showing how much my loved ones mean to me. It's also another excuse to stay in the malls a bit longer. I wish I'm one of those people who can come up with thoughtful last-minute gifts. The truth is, I enjoy taking my time looking for gifts. In fact, I already have boxes and gift bags prepared for each of my loved ones. Slowly, I fill each goody box or bag with special tokens such as a **small poetry book with a charmed bookmark**, or a **monogrammed pink or zebra-print, lace thong**, or a **new skin care product** I discovered that's in my can't-live-without-it-for-the-moment list. But if push comes to shove, I do have a few fool- proof gift ideas that can make any *fashionista* friend shriek "Grabe!" My faves are **chandelier earrings** so blinding they'd make any girl's outfit sparkle; a **mini champagne bottle from Marks & Spencer** with two pink straws, a velvet ribbon (that doubles as a belt or headband, mind you) with a red gift card (for a Chrismas-y feel). For guys, it's usually a six-month or a one-year (depending on my budget) **subscription to their favorite magazine**. I put the gift check in a huge box (guys, in general, like big packages, no pun intended). I wrap the box with old newspaper, and tie it up with green or red shoestring and top it off with a poinsettia flower.

The best gifts I've received are assorted little items, which when put together in a gift box, mean something. The gift becomes even more meaningful when it's sent with a handwritten note.

Ace gift-givers, whether they're acquaintances or friends, take the trouble to find out what I appreciate. I love accessories, glassware (I collect everything from champagne flutes to thick Mexican glasses to kitschy Lily's Peanut Butter floral-designed glasses), and fashion books (hint, hint, I'm kidding).

The worst gifts I've received are fruitcakes, recycled gifts (especially those with their original gift cards) and used perfume (note: new ones take a few pumps before they spritz). They are clearly an indication of how much I mean (or not) to the person, who will most likely, end up in my yuckers list.

To avoid landing in anyone's yuckers list, flip through the pages of **JUST SHOP.** It is this season's ultimate **GIFT GUIDE.**

We have scoured malls, bazaars and specialty shops to make shopping easier on your feet, not to mention your wallet (we got great bargains). Because we want you to **JUST SHOP** and spend more time with your loved ones this holiday season.

Everybody now... *'Tis the season to be shopping...Fa...la...la..*

Jenni Ep.

NEXT ISSUE:

JUST SHOP 2 issues in Nov. (19 & 26)

Great Holiday Looks
Decadent Accessories
Celebrity Christmas Wish List
And More Gift Ideas!

Mabuhay MTV!

Thanks for the award, 'Best Stylist of the Year!'. All that *mall-ing* finally paid off!

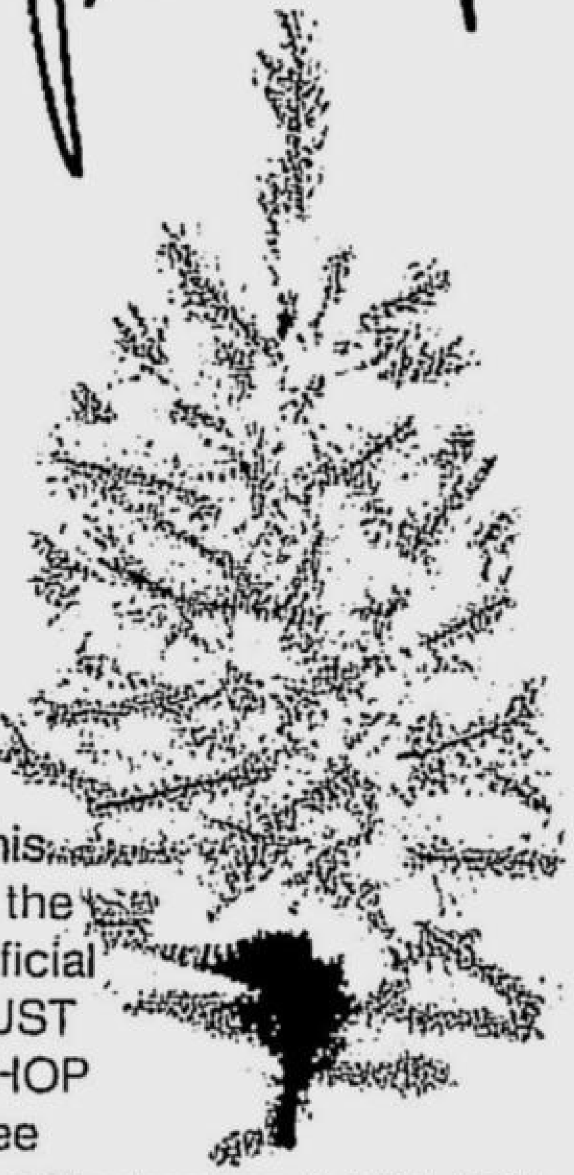
Thanks Inquirer for giving me the venue to enhance my craft! Mwah!

My Picks

I love this! Especially it's named after our mag!
ARANAZ MANILA 'JUST SHOP' bag, P3,500. Pin, P500

THIS DIARY WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE 2005

To inspire ideas for my way-too-cool friends
THIS DIARY WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE 2005 (Benrik Hodder & Stoughton), P909. **FULLY BOOKED**



This is the official JUST SHOP tree
Mini Christmas Tree (1 1/2ft.), P595
THE RUSTAN'S FLOWER SHOP

By far, the best and yummiest-smelling body butter I've tried

LAURA MERCIER Soufflé Body Creme Brûlée, P1,745, **ESSENSES**

The perfect accessory this coming Holiday
Pop **SWATCH** Sweet Scents Fall/Winter 2004, price available upon request

Best gift check for the coming *stresstivities!*
H-SALON gift check

I'd love to get your comments or suggestions. E-mail me at jenni_shops@inquirer.com.ph or text INQUIRER JSHOP NAME/CITY/MESSAGE to 2207 for Globe or 283 for Smart subscribers.

MARITHÉ
FRANÇOIS
GIRBAUD.
WWW.GIRBAUD.COM

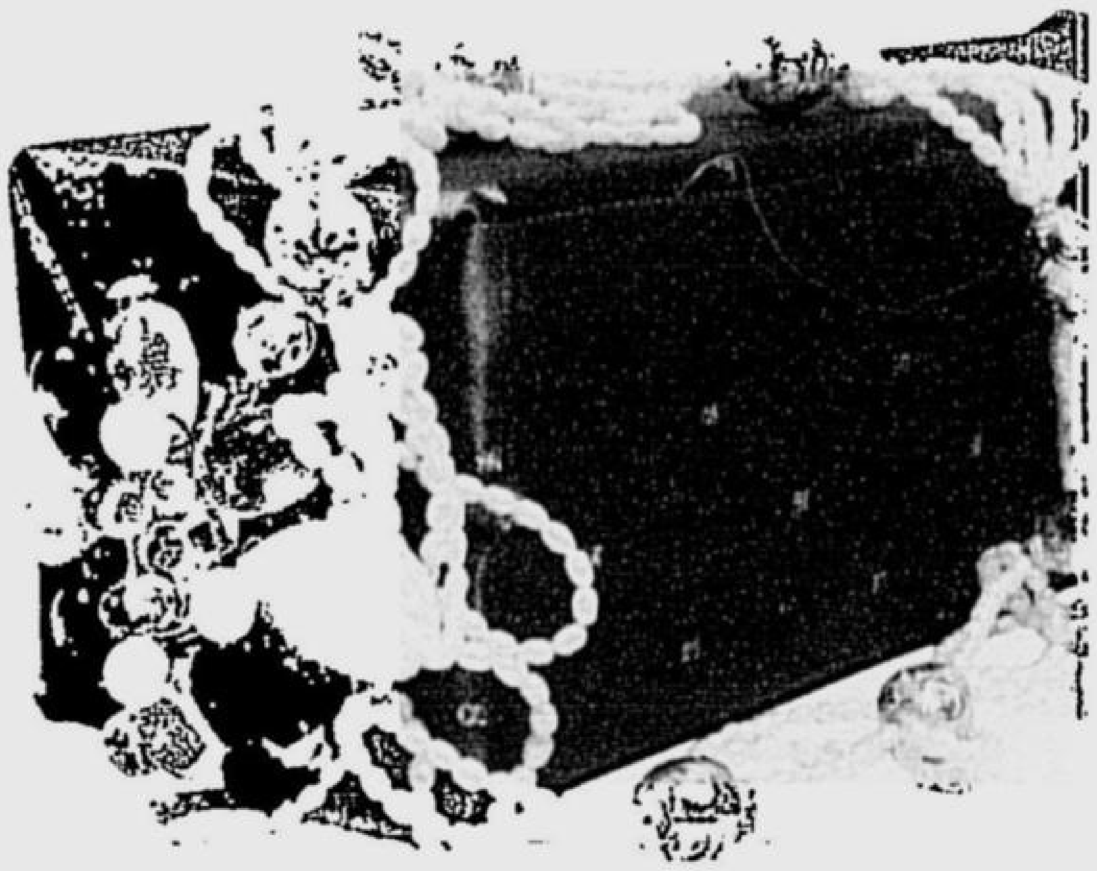
bling it on

by Amina Aranaz

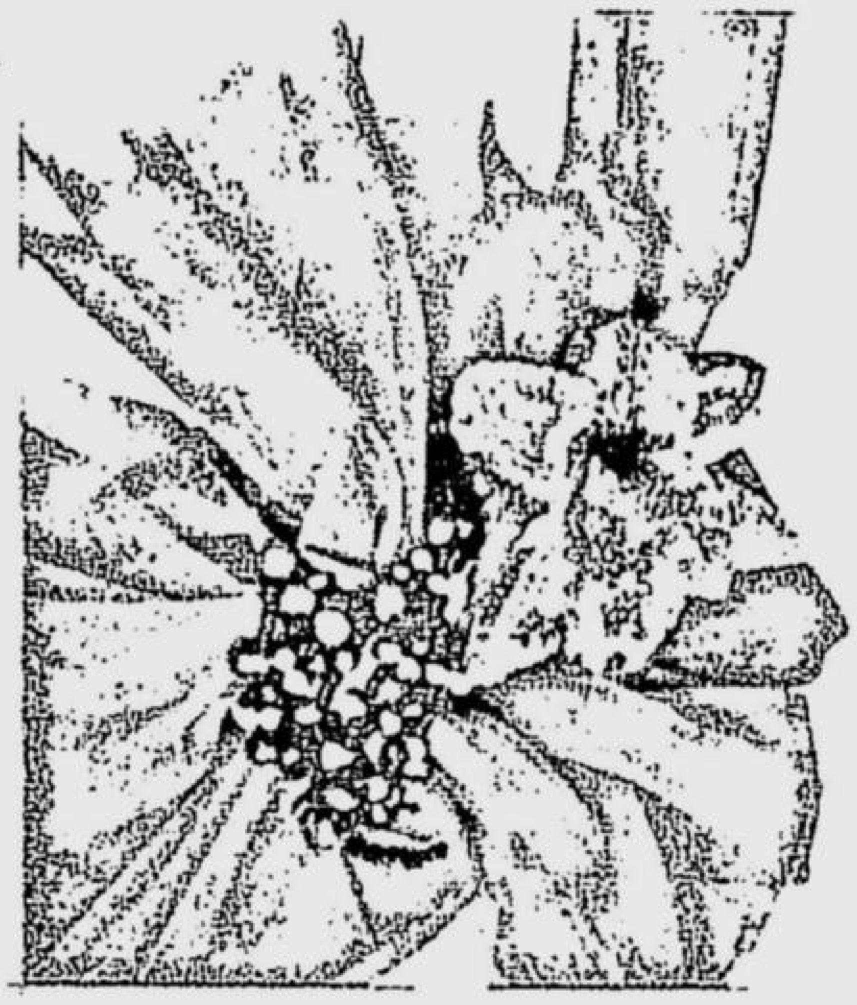
Wrap Star

Steer clear of those boring printed paper and gaudy plastic berries. This Christmas, wrap your presents with fabulous (and useful) accessories. Packaging becomes as exciting as the surprise it has inside.

Photography **COI SAMOTH**



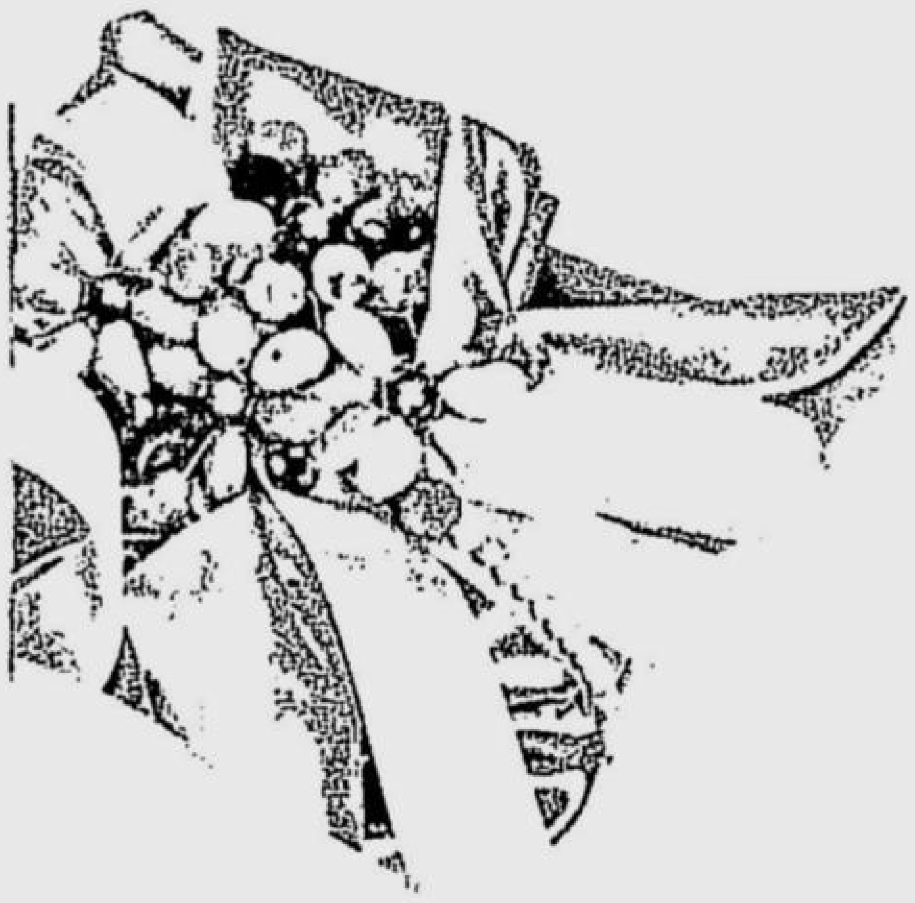
Tickled Pink- Pearl lariat ties it all in place! **CAROLINA'S LACE SHOPPE** tulle fabric, P40/yd; **PETITA** lariat, P900.



Exotic India- Metallic Indian fabric adds whimsy to your present. With woven pearl necklace and brooch--- oh, so precious! **PETITA** necklace, P2,700; **HAINEE** brooch, P300.

Treasure Hunt- Fabric zebra print belt ties into a useful bow accent! **A.CONSPIRACY** belt, P250; **PETITA** necklace, P2,500.

Caped Crusader- Satin capelet doubles as a useful and stylish wrap (for your shoulders and as a gift)! Striking floral stone necklace makes the perfect centerpiece. **A.CONSPIRACY** capelet, price available upon request; **HAINEE** necklace, P2,000.



Perfectly Tulled- Silver tulle gets pretty with a rice pearl collar necklace! **FABRIC WAREHOUSE** tulle fabric, P40/yd; **PETITA** necklace, P3,100; **ARANAZ MANILA** brooch, P500

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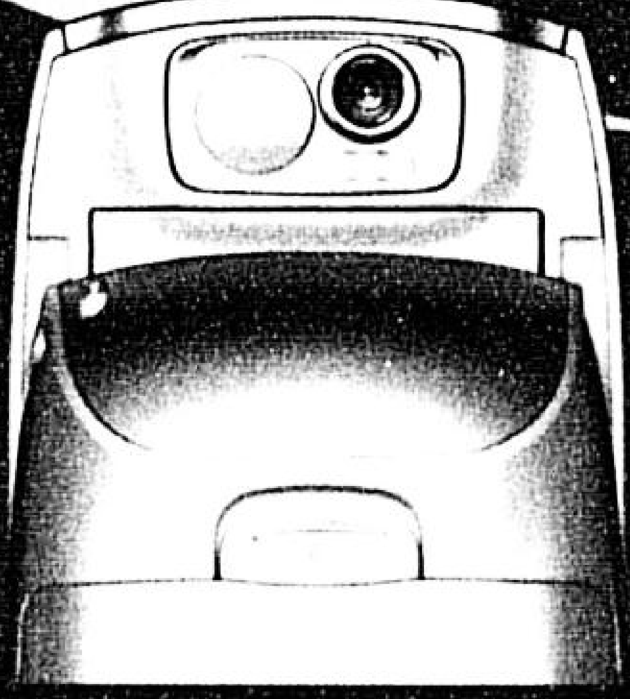

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1515 Series of 2004

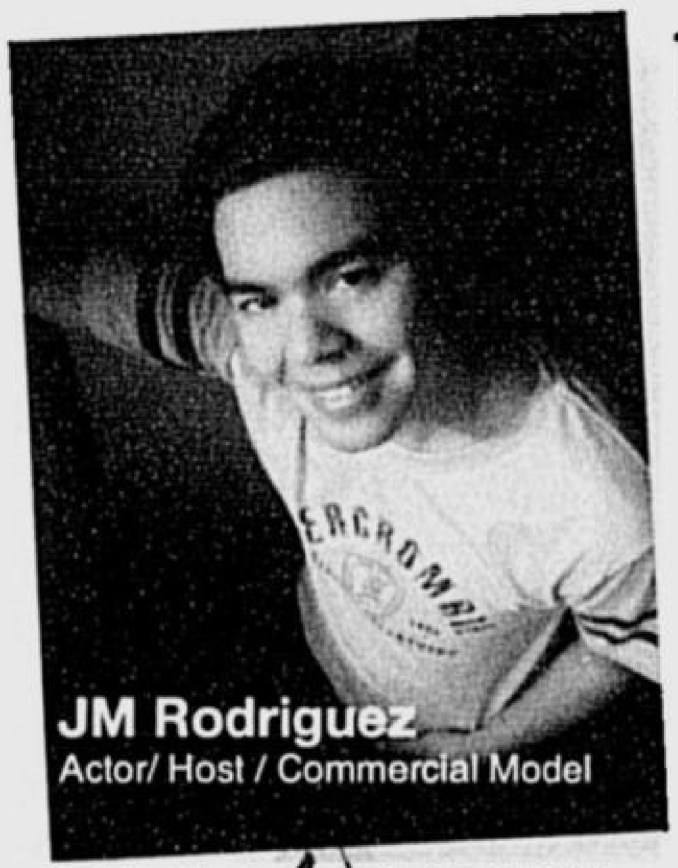
Presents Perfect

This season, break the bank or stretch that budget. From Greenhills to Greenbelt celebrity shoppers give you their coolest finds for both Lady Luxe and Ms. Penny-wise!

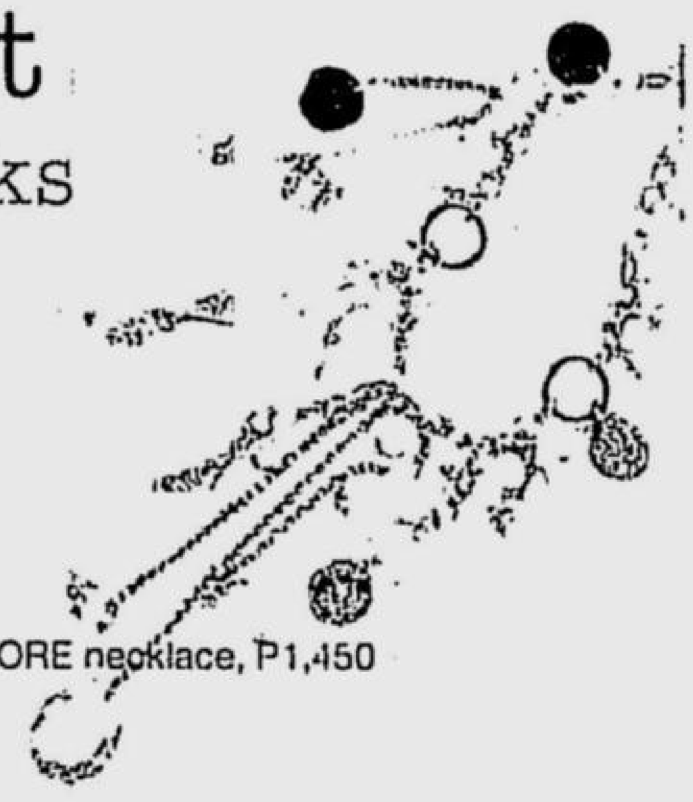
Product photography **COI SAMOTH**

budget

JM's picks

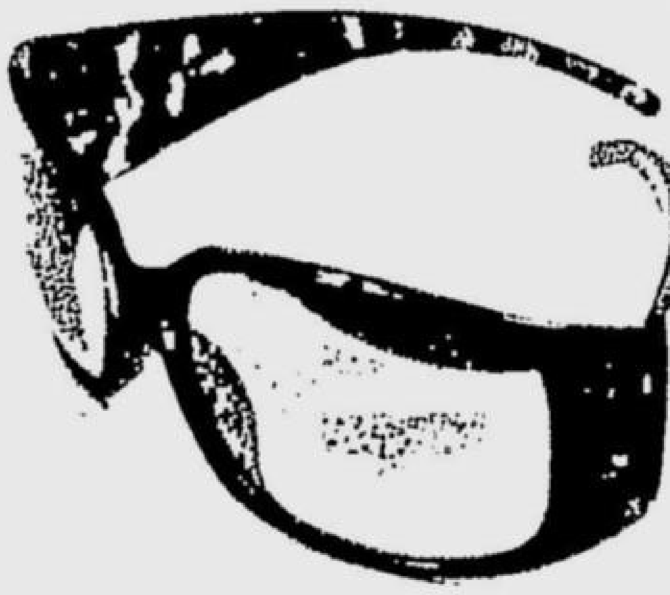


JM Rodriguez
Actor/ Host / Commercial Model



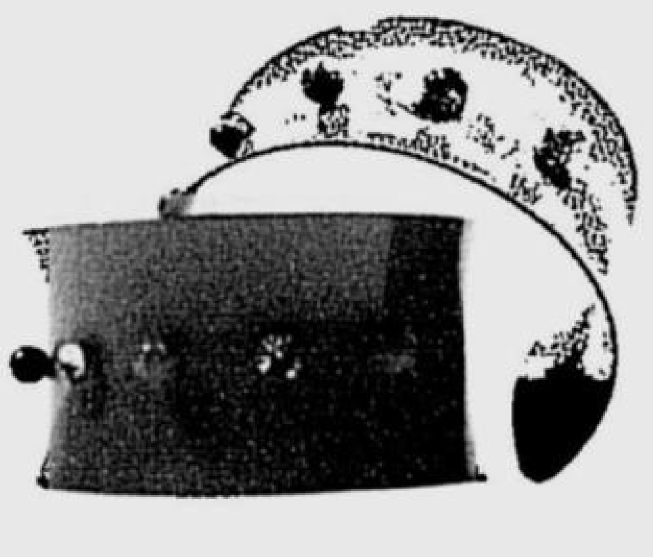
IN STORE necklace, P1,450

FABSHOP sunglasses, P550



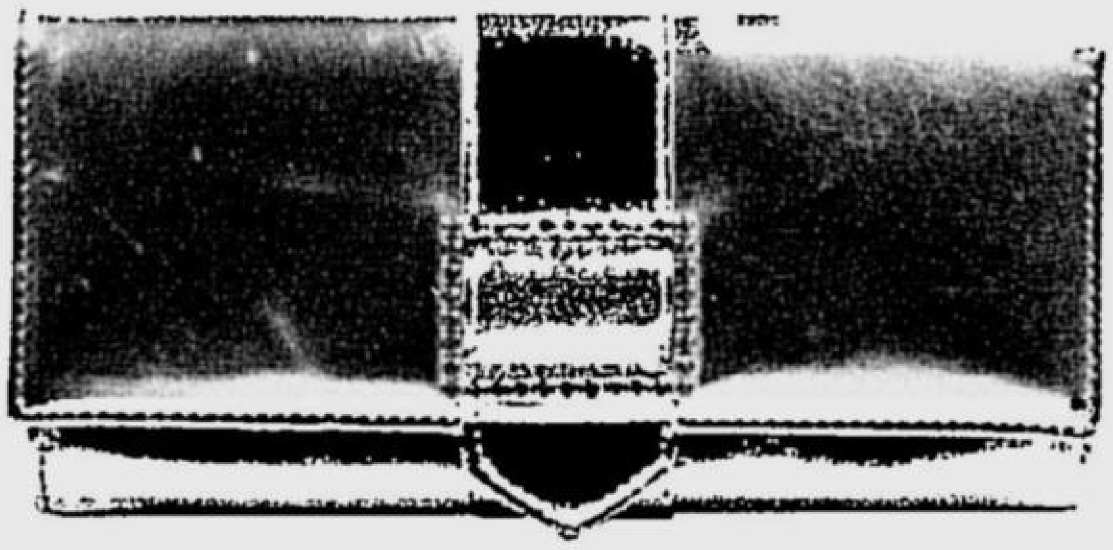
CHECK IT OUT
shoe, P650

IN STORE tank top, P550



FABSHOP bangles,
P299 each

HIP STOP wallet, P980



blowout

Angelique's picks

Angelique Villaraza
Public Relations Manager,
Professional Products Division,
L'Oreal, Phils.

PAUL SMITH
scarf, P8,300

LOUIS VUITTON
Dhanura bag,
P65,000

Tracy Reese dress,
P19,999, MIX

GUCCI cigarette
holder, P7,450

PRADA shoe,
P32,000

CHÂTEAU
MARGAUX
GRAND CRU
CLASSE 1994,
P30,190, TERRY
SELECTION
THE GOURMET
STORE

CHATEAU MARGAUX
GRAND VIN

Preppy Chic

new arrivals! new arrivals! new arrivals! new arrivals! new arrivals! new arrivals!
we
love
'em!

Denim Diva

Party Princess

Bayo Skirts It!

There's no skirting this issue! Four looks to bring out the girl in you!

Photography COI SAMOTH
Styling JENNI EPPERSON
Hair and Makeup BENJIE ANGELES
Model PAULA DEL ROSARIO

Preppy Chic
Polo shirt, P595; long sleevedshirt, P955; skirt, P725; shoes, P899; bag, P599; necklace, P245.

Denim Diva
T-shirt, P395; jacket, P1,195; skirt, P575; bag, P599; necklace, P399.

Party Princess
T-shirt, P445; skirt, P745; shoes, P595; pin, P175; belt (used as necklace), P599.

Boho Babe
Long sleeved shirt, P745; skirt, P725; shoes, P899; necklace, P399.

Boho Babe

Let the (holiday) shop-a-thon begin

By: Anielle Santos

Jingle bells, jingle bells, jingle all the way......On my quest for that perfect brooch to complete my Holly Golightly ensemble this Halloween, I'm deafened by that all too familiar carol blasting from through the mall speakers. Indeed, it signals the start of my favorite time of the year-- more popularly known as the "Shop 'til you drop" season. Santa's elves are marching in to ignite the mad shopper in me. If there is a prime time for shopaholics, the Christmas season is it! There are mall-wide sales, bazaars and tiangges popping left and right, making it hard for shoppers to decide what to do (or what to buy).

Of course, not everyone regards Christmas the same way. In fact, a really good friend of mine gets migraines just thinking about the crowded shopping centers, traffic jams, Christmas lists, and the stress from fighting one's way through the mall madness.

The trick to stress-free shopping is to have the right frame of mind. Silly as it may sound, shopping is like a sport. Crowds, traffic and the Christmas rush are part of the game. You can't let these things get you down. Put your game face on and play hard! As with any sport, you have to come prepared. I prepare for my shopping trips by being in the mall, tiangge or bazaar, before or as soon as it opens, and by making sure that I have everything I need and NOTHING MORE. Believe me, carrying 10 pounds of packages while making your way through a dense crowd of people may be a good cardio, but with sky-high shoes on, it makes for one giant shopping *disasterouch!* So be smart and conquer the mall scene with your favorite *Havaianas* for instance!

Keep in mind that your offense has to be just as good as your defense. By offense, I mean how well or efficiently you shop. And by defense, I mean how you are able to take control of unforeseen obstacles (like getting distracted by a to-die-for bag you want for yourself when you're supposed to be shopping for a gift for Dad). My mom put it well when she said, "A smart shopper shops with open eyes and an open mind." In that one statement, she summed up what a person really has to know about shopping: Be practical and cautious, be flexible in what you want, and be assertive in getting what you deserve.

On a final note, what makes a game worth playing is the fun you have doing it. Shopping is fun! Or at least it can be if you try to look at it positively. If you enjoy shopping with friends, then you can make an activity out of it. Meet in the mall early, do some shopping, catch up on each other's lives, and then reward yourselves with the creamiest, most delectable Frappucino for doing all that "exercise." On the other hand, if you're a solitary shopper like me, then use your shopping trips as personal time. Be creative and think out of the box. Shopping can serve as a venue to be resourceful and creative in finding the right items for you, your family members and friends.

This Christmas, look forward to shopping instead of seeing it as a chore. As the song goes, "It is the most wonderful time of the year."

Top 5 Christmas Shopping Tips

1. **Be an early bird.**
Shopping centers can get crowded in the latter part of the day. Arrive at the mall right before it opens to get the best selection of the merchandise (not to mention a parking slot).
2. **Get Real.**
Don't exceed your budget (or at least TRY not to). Decide on how much you are willing to spend, and just bring that amount -- no more, no less.
3. **Show me the money!**
Be sure you have cash before heading to the mall or any bazaar so you avoid having to queue at the ATM.
4. **Better watch out... so you don't cry.**
Do not leave your wallet, packages, cell phone, or other personal belongings on the counter or anywhere a pickpocket can have access to them.
5. **Keep your receipts.**
Ask about refund and return policies for regular and sale items. Keep all of your receipts just in case you need to return or exchange items..

Shop Girls

Xeng Zulueta

Chief Makeup Artist, Shu Uemura

JUST SHOP What's the best budget gift to give this Christmas?

XZ For the budget gal the I have to recommend the SWEET LIP GLOSS MINI TRIO KIT. For P1,000 you get SHU UEMURA'S 3 best-selling shades: Cherry, Mandarin, Raspberry in mini tubes.

JS And the best blowout gift?

XZ Hands down it's the Limited Edition RED MAKEUP BOX for P18.995. Already with a waiting list, it's an absolute must-have! You can use it as a travel bag or be the most up to date makeup junkie around, and

Selin Tekeli

Managing Consultant, Mango

JS What's the best time to go shopping?

ST Definitely in the mornings when the store is less crowded..: Especially during the sale. And every 2 weeks because that's when we get our new shipments.

JS What's the best gift to give from MANGO?

ST A MANGO bag!

Daisy Doctolero

Store Manager, Topshop Shangri-La Plaza

JS What's the best time to go shopping?

DD Weekends are still the best time to go shopping because you're more relaxed and you can take your time looking around a shop But go in the morning when there's definitely less people.

JS What's the best gift to give from TOPSHOP?

DD People love to receive cute knickers! And for the Christmas season we'll even put it in a TOPSHOP Gift Bag.

Shining Star

Tank top, P349.75, men's boxer brief, P279.75, both from **BENCH_ BODY**
GIRL SHOPPE jean chain (used as necklace), P250 each

Bench Body model and actress, Francine Prieto unwraps her Christmas wish list and more.

Christmas is for..
everyone!

Early shopper or last-minute buyer?
Definitely a last-minute buyer. There are more choices the nearer it gets to Christmas. And the sales!

Budget hunter or luxe buyer?
It depends on the person I'm giving it to and if I like him/her a lot then I splurge.

The best thing about gift-giving is..
when the person who got the gift says, "Oh, she remembered me."

The best thing about receiving a gift is...
that someone remembered me! It makes Christmas more special.

The best gift I've received..
is a laptop which just made my Friendster even more accessible!

Top 10 items in your Christmas wish list?
1. Spa gift check
2. A pair of diamond earrings
3. Makeup
4. Smallest digital camera available
5. Shoes...size 10 please!
6. A **LOUIS VUITTON** Papillon bag
7. **KENZO** perfume
8. Pink **iPod mini**
9. Gold charm bracelet
10. A boyfriend!

Top 10 items you love to give?
1. Beauty products
2. **BENCH** products
3. Ham
4. Chinese red envelope with money, of course
5. Bags
6. Fruits
7. Accessories
8. Perfume
9. Toys
10. Books

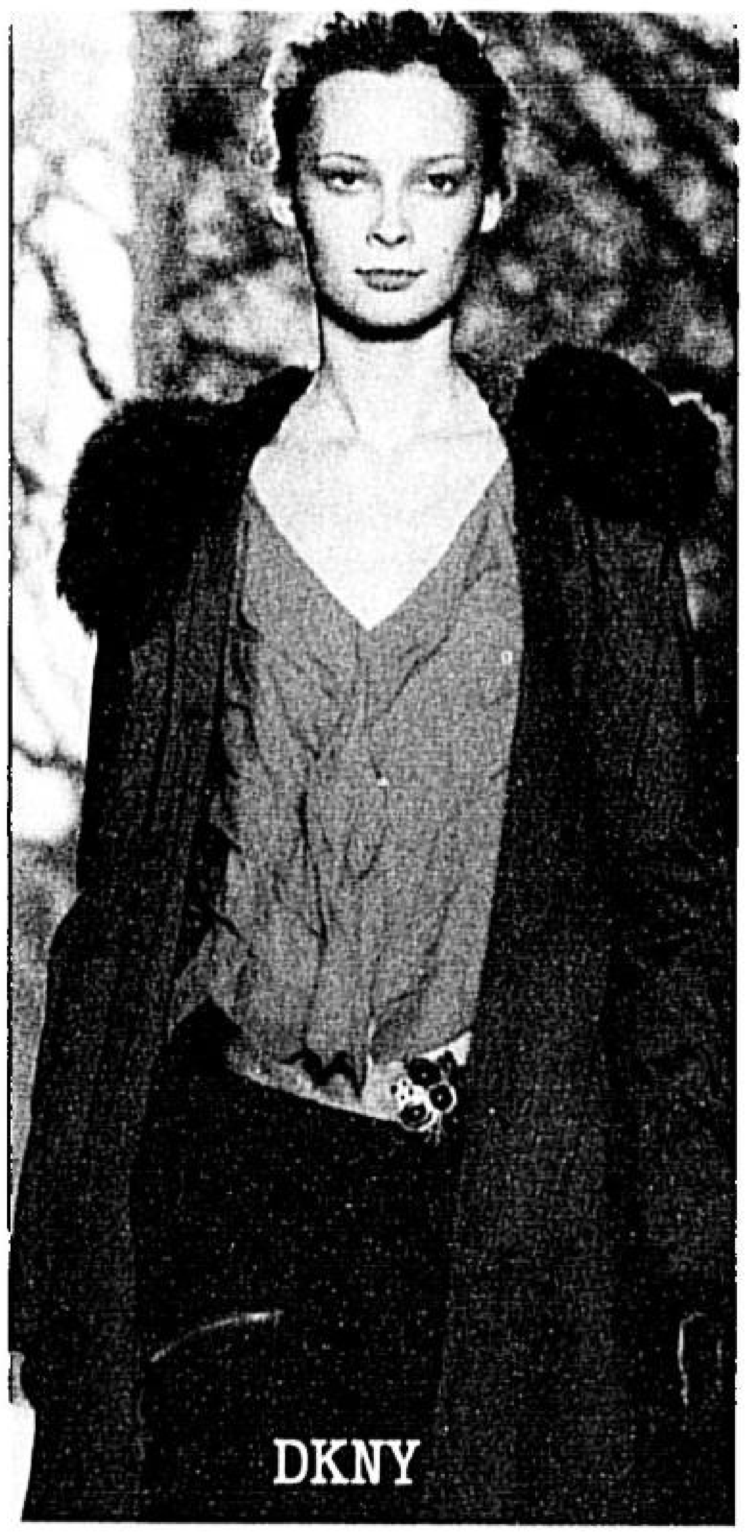
In giving and receiving remember that...
it's the thought that counts. It's not about the price or brand.

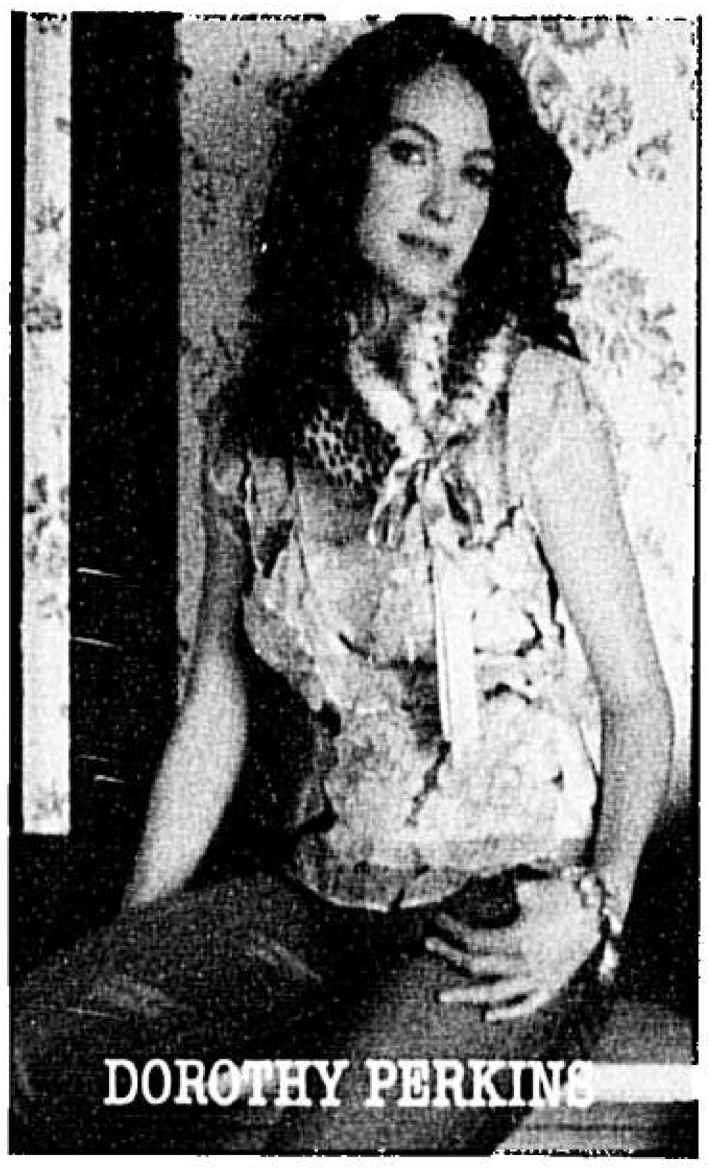
Photography **TOM EPPERSON**
Styling **JENNI EPPERSON**
Hair and Makeup **HENRI CALAYAG** of H-Salon

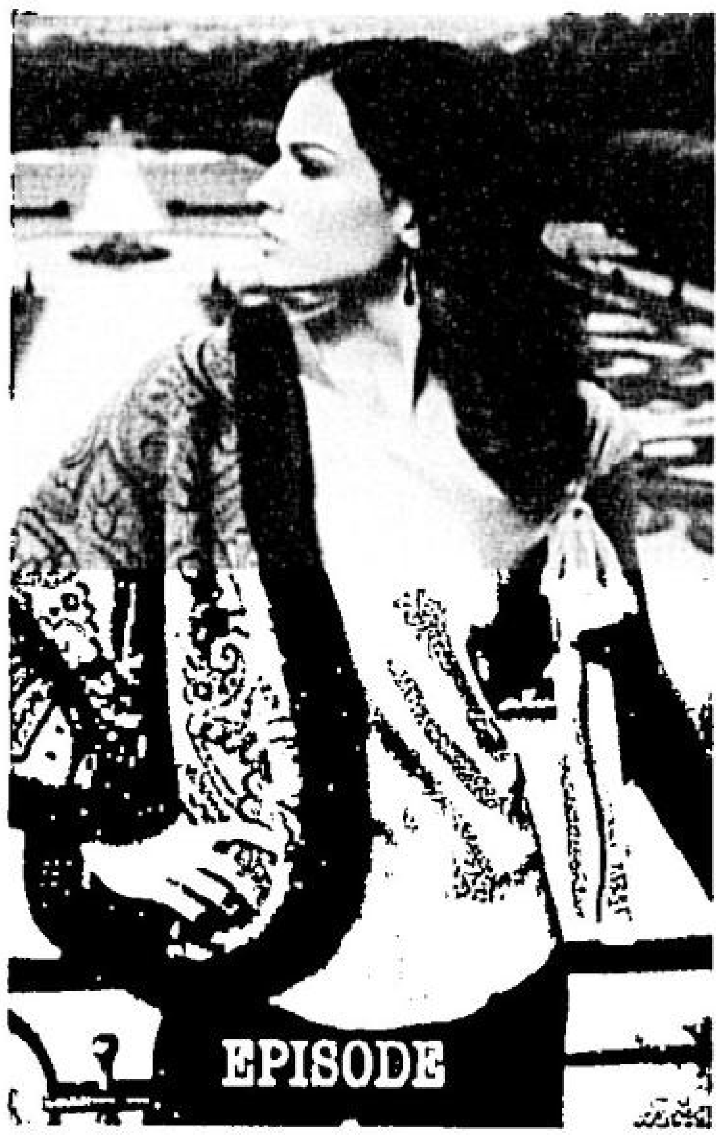
On the cover Francine wears
Tank top, P109. Bra, P399.75. Underwear, P149.75. All from **BENCH_BODY. COLOR STONE** clip, P1,200. **GIRL SHOPPE** earrings, P295. **CAROLINA'S LACE SHOPPE** gloves, P220

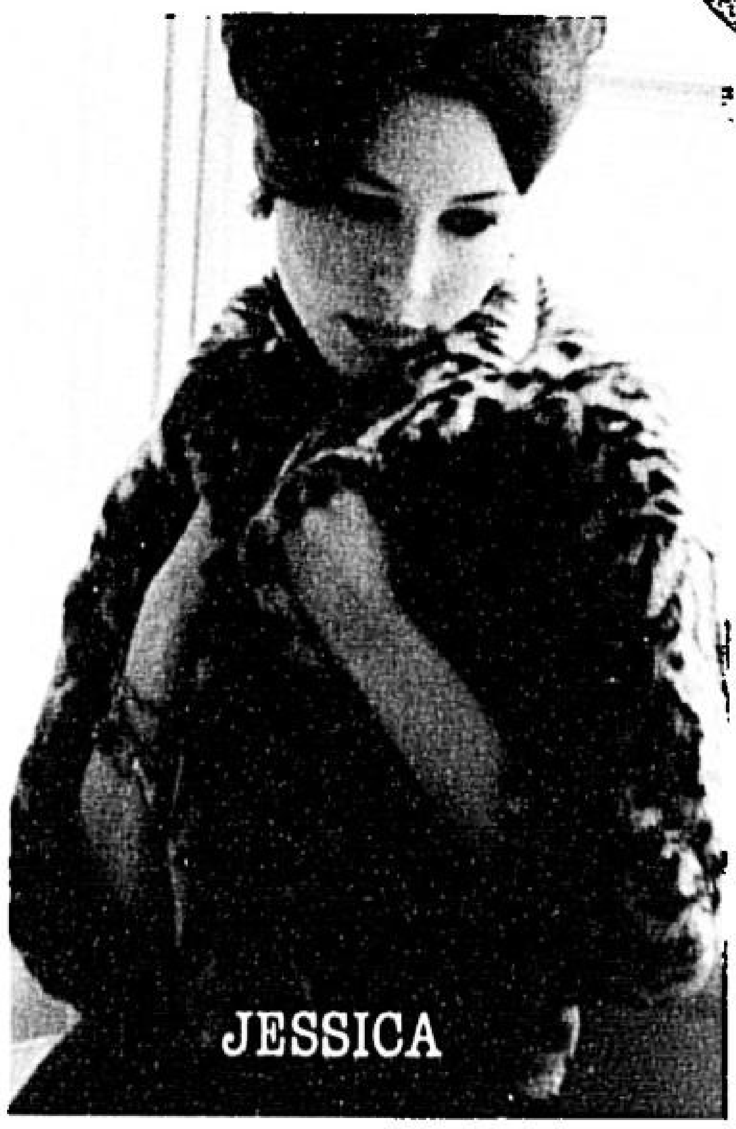
Furry nice

Give yourself a swanky winter style!


DKNY


DOROTHY PERKINS


EPISODE

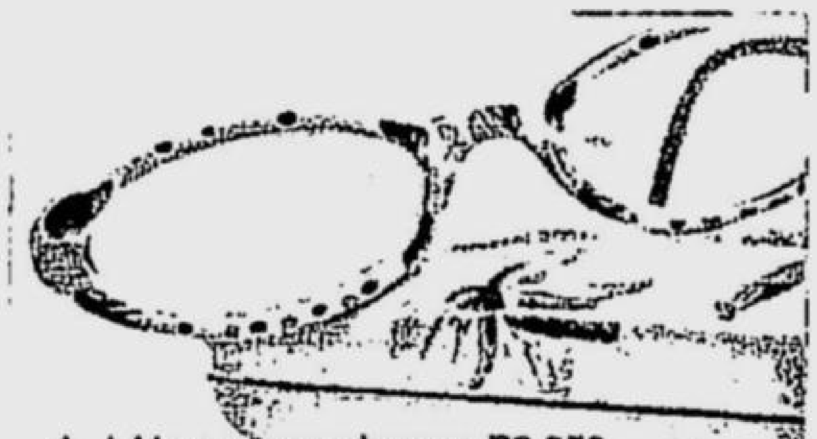

JESSICA

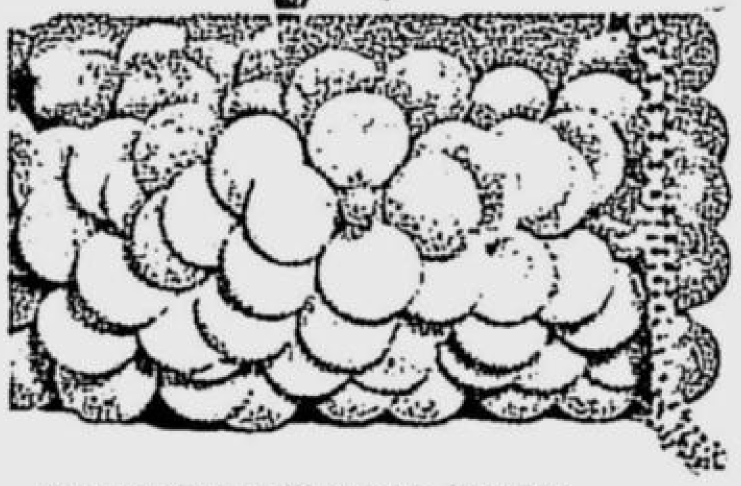
Sis/Girlfriend/Daughter

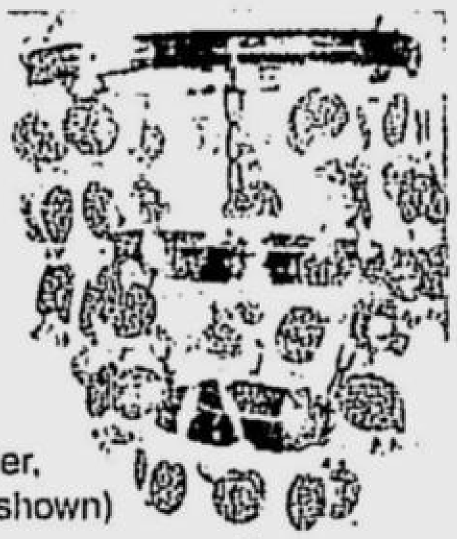
Pretty things she'll surely love!

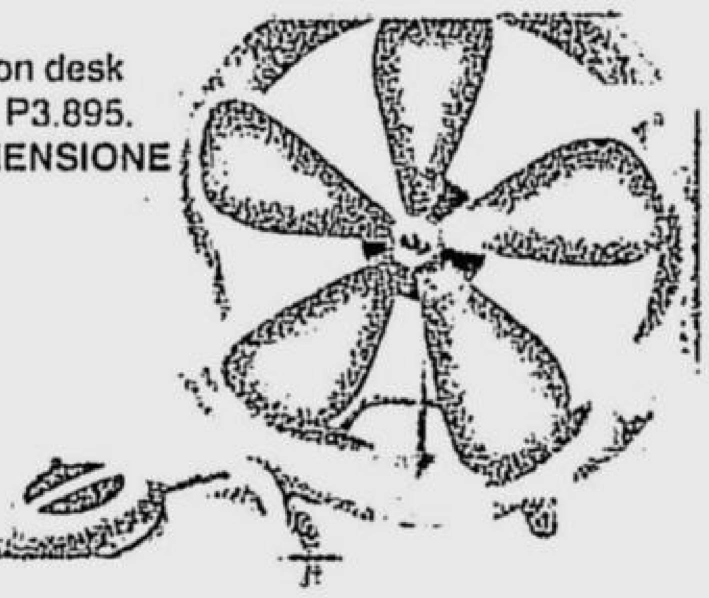
Kare Design tea light holder, P950, **QUILL**

COACH key chain, P2,950


A. J. Morgan eye glasses, P3,050, **SIMPLE PLEASURES**


ARANAZ MANILA bag, P1,300

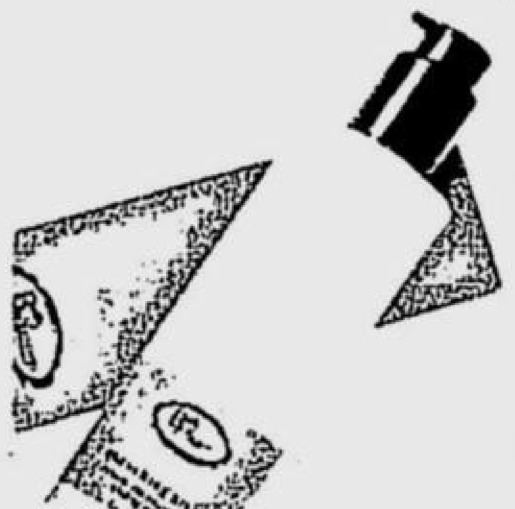

KISH tea light holder, P2,000 (stand not shown)

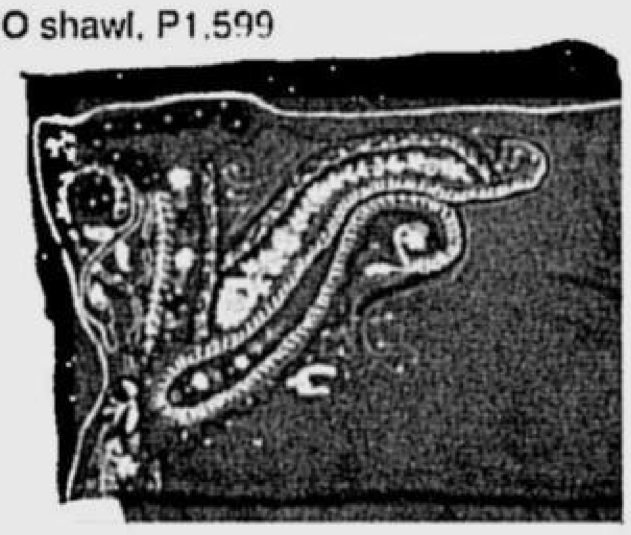

Lexon desk fan, P3,895, **DIMENSIONE**

TICKLES dog collar, P85
MAKE ROOM dog carrier, P1,300

Gift Guide

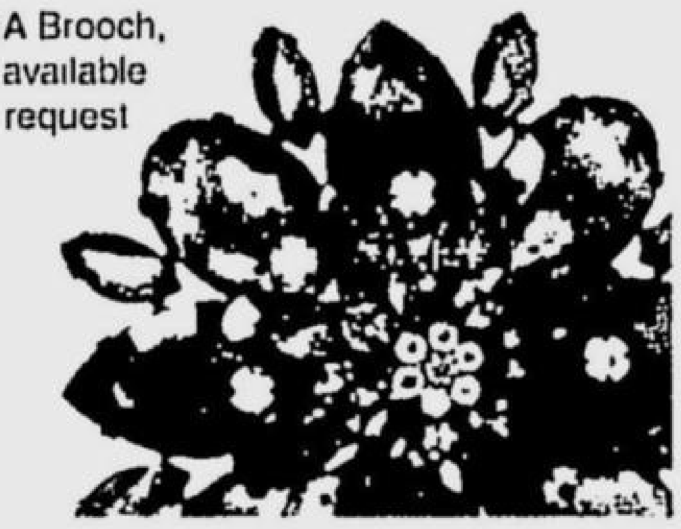
TINT bag, P4,398

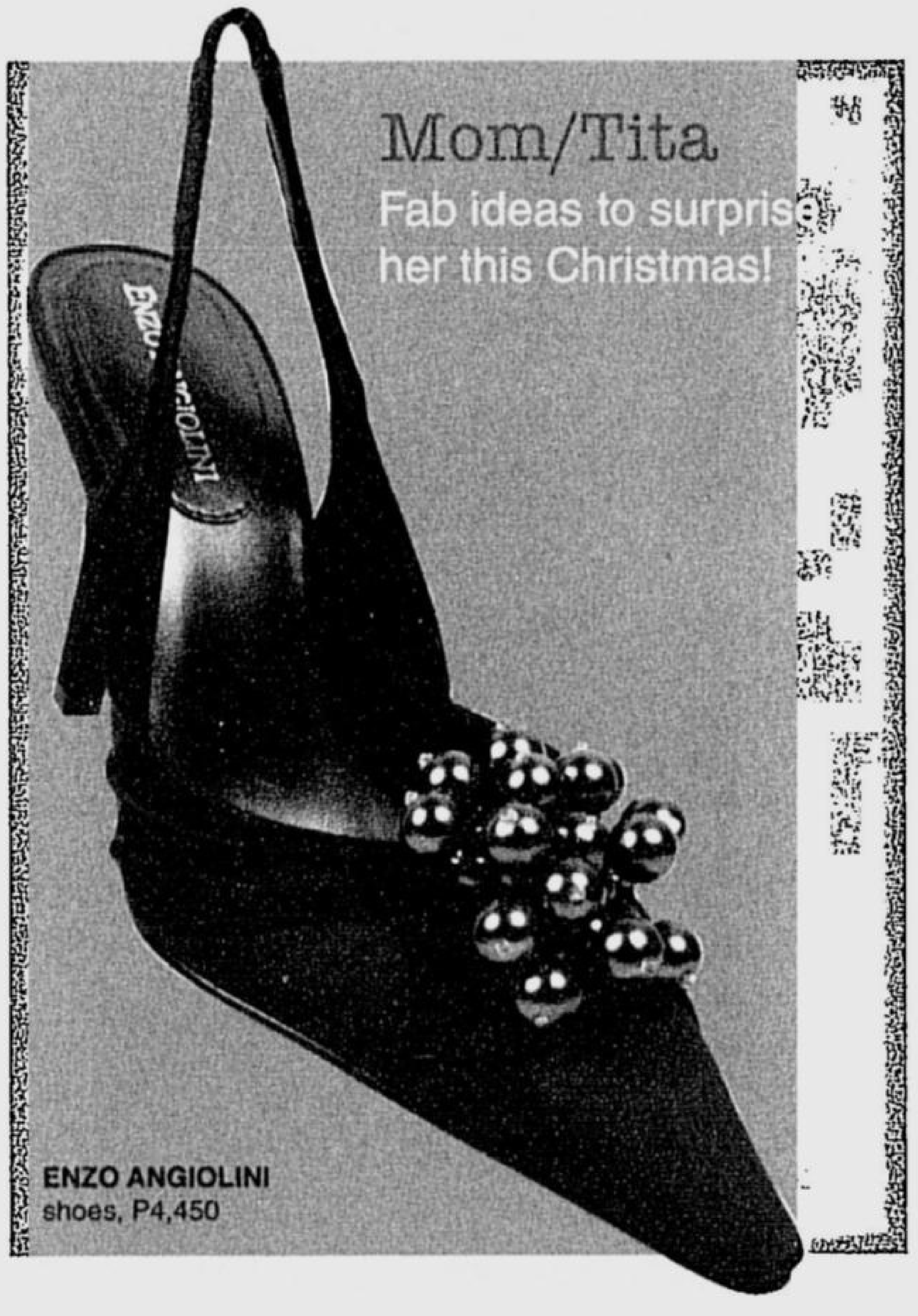

BATH BLOOMERS QUENCHING CREAM BODY MASSAGE CREAM in Cedrus Geranium Kyphi, P625 **BEAUTY BAR**


MANGO shawl, P1,599

PAUL SMITH BLUE sweater, P29,850

GUCCI wallet, P22,500


FIRMA Brooch, price available upon request


Mom/Tita

Fab ideas to surprise her this Christmas!

ENZO ANGIOLINI shoes, P4,450

Dad/Tito/Boss

Make him beam with these cool surprises!

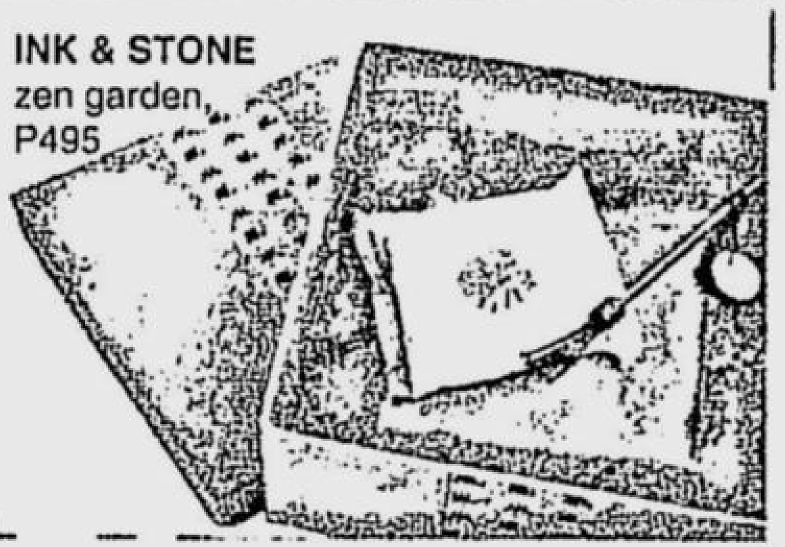
J-me key holder, P695, **KISH**

Typhoon corkscrew, P1,450, **QUILL**

PAUL SMITH playing cards, P1,250

GRAND P
CHAMPIO
A

GUCCI ballpoint pen, P4,500



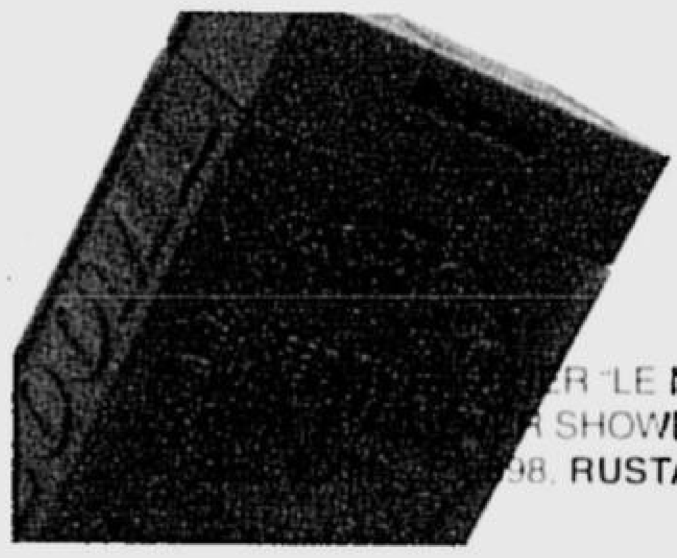
INK & STONE zen garden, P495

Philippi lighter, P850, **FIRMA**

CLINIQUE GLOBAL SKIN SUPPLIES FOR MEN SET, P2,400, RUSTAN'S

We made it our mission to get half of your gift-giving work done!

Photography COI SAMOTH

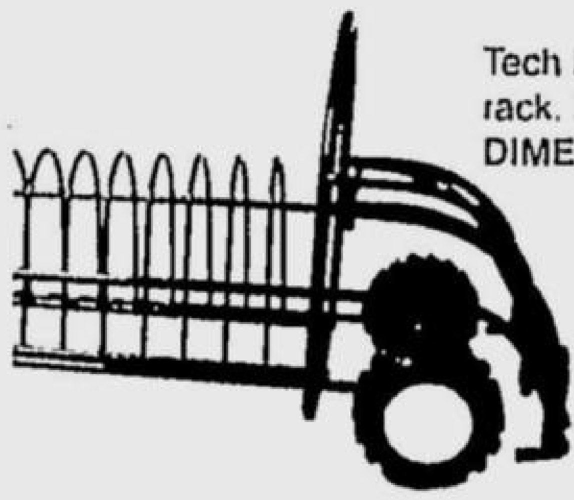


ER "LE MALE"
R SHOWER
98, **RUSTAN'S**

GREENLAND BATH & SHOWER GEL, P250 each, BEAUTY BAR

Multiple Choice by Topchoice espresso set, P395, **RUSTAN'S**

Koziol lighter, P998, **QUILL**



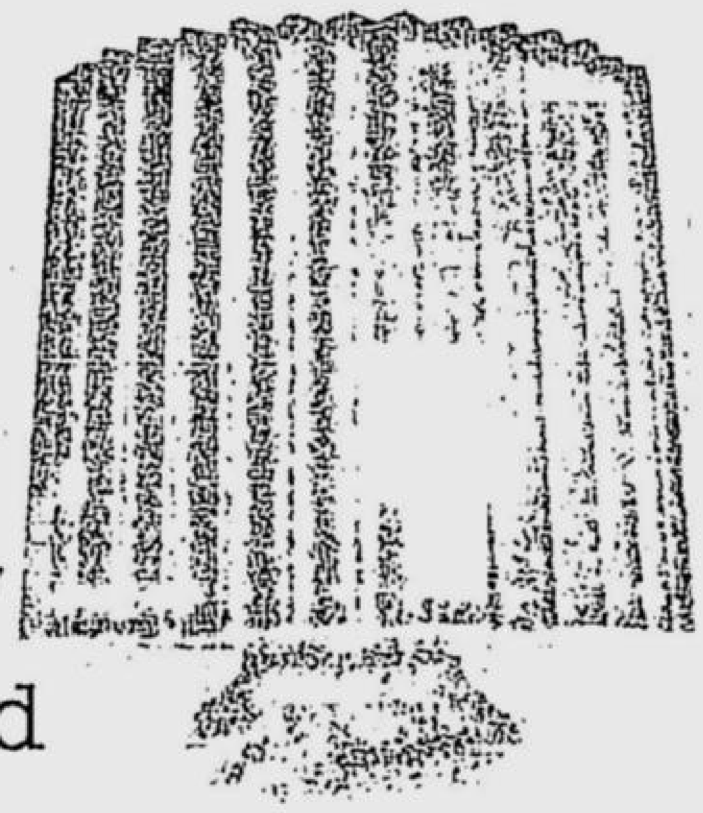
Tech Point CD rack, P369, **DIMENSIONE**

MONOPOLY
MUSTANG
GO

Monopoly Mustang [illegible]th Anniversary Collector's Edition game board, P2.995

Bro/Son/Boyfriend

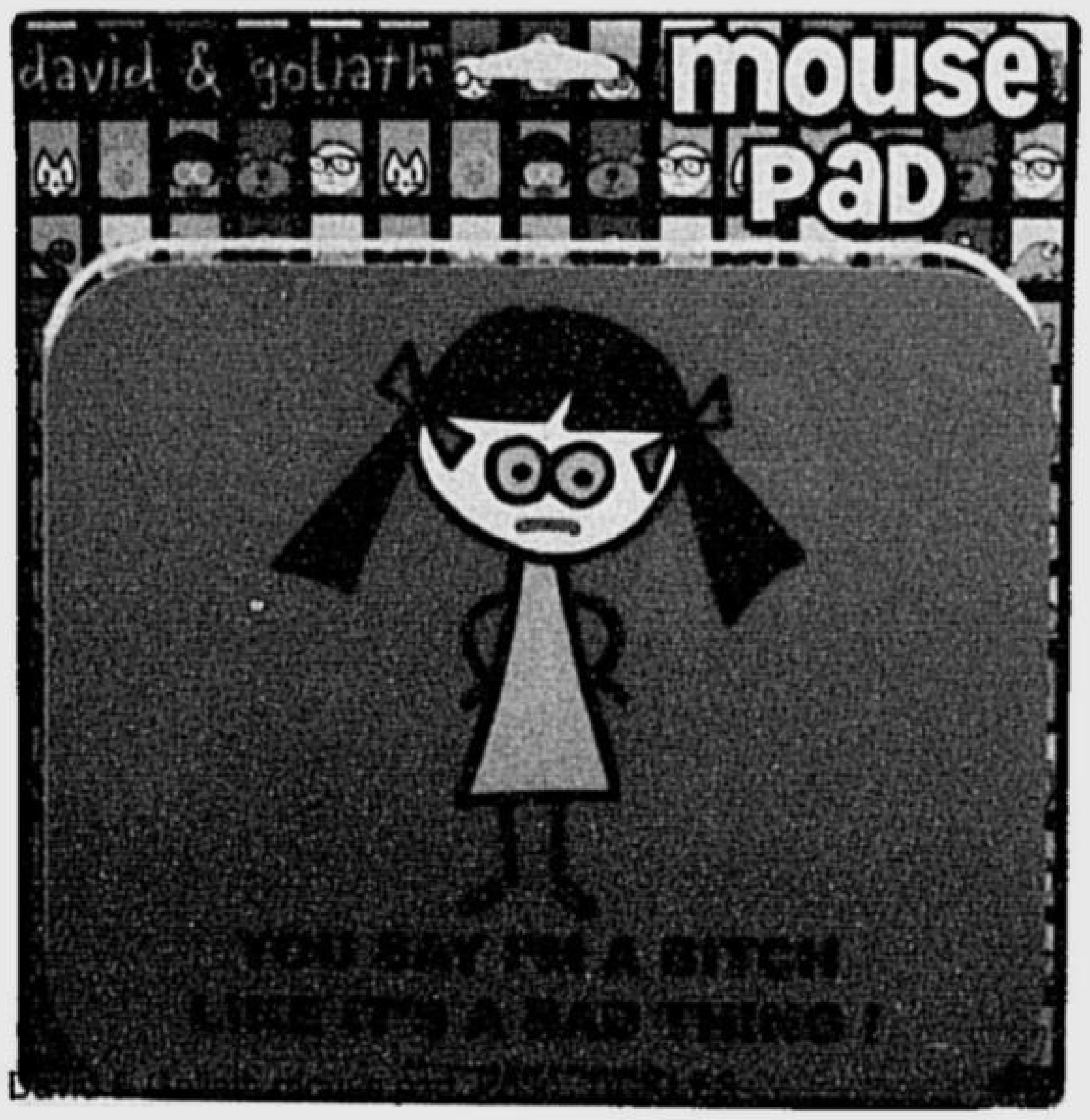
Hip gifts for the man in him!



Mr. P One Man Shy lamp, P3,495, **DIMENSIONE**

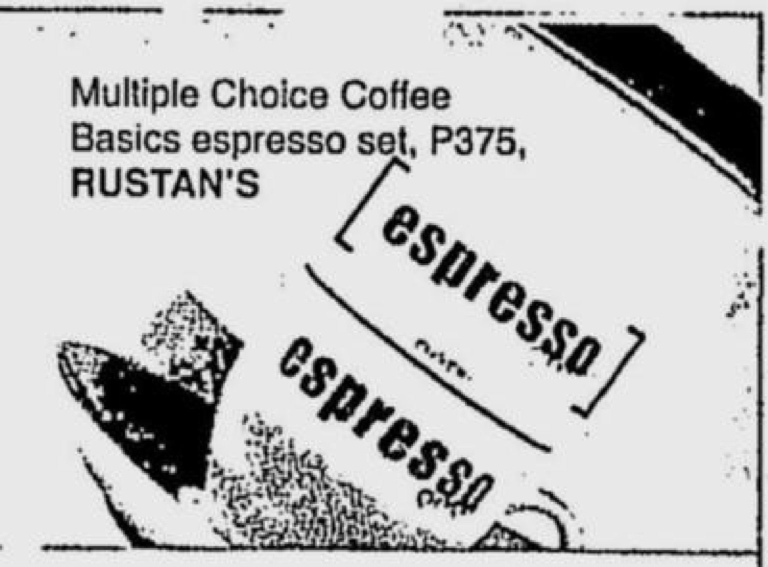
Lady Boss/Bestfriend

Holiday gifts that could score brownie points for you!

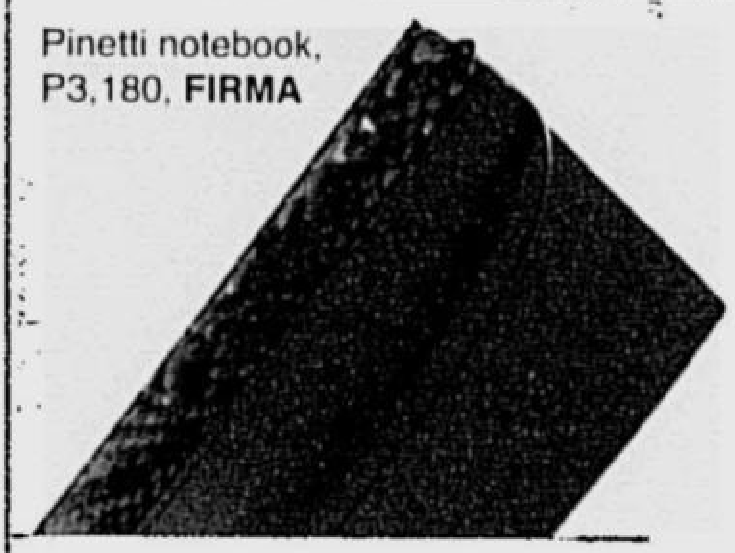


ARANAZ MANILA bag, P750

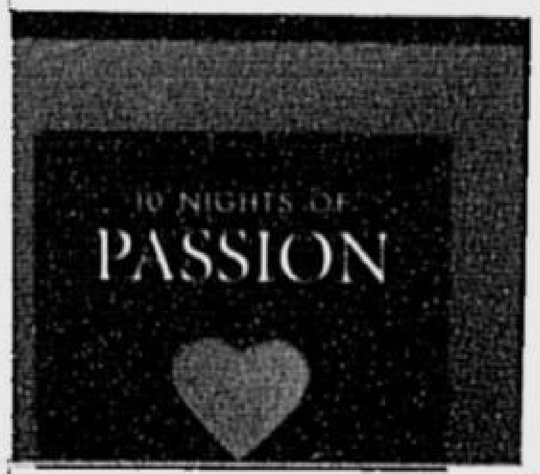
Multiple Choice Coffee Basics espresso set, P375, **RUSTAN'S**



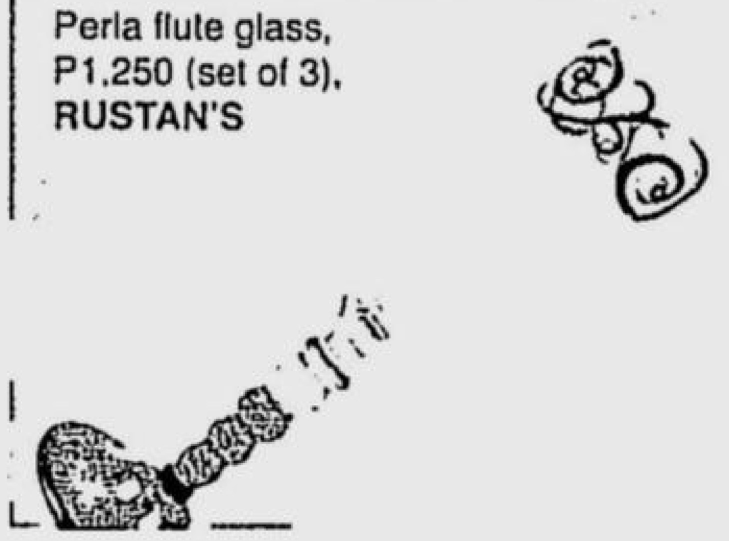
Pinetti notebook, P3,180, **FIRMA**



Mega Mini Kits 10 Nights of Passion, P545, **INK & STONE**



Perla flute glass, P1,250 (set of 3), **RUSTAN'S**



FIRMA bangle, price available upon request

ARANAZ MANILA 2nd level City Golf Plaza, Julia Vargas St., Pasig. **BEAUTY BAR** Glorietta 2 Ayala Center, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **BENCH BODY** 2nd floor Glorietta 2 Ayala Center. **CAROLINA'S LACE SHOPPE** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level SM Megamall Bldg. B. **CHECK IT OUT** Greenhills Theatre Mall Greenhills. **COACH** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **COLOR STONE** 2nd level Lifestyles at Rockwell Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **DIMENSIONE** 3rd floor Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **DKNY** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center. **DOROTHY PERKINS** Robinson's Galleria. **ENZO ANGIOLINI** 2nd floor Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **EPISODE** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **ESSENSES** Rustan's Tower Ayala Center Makati, Rustan's Alabang Town Center. **FAB SHOP** Greenhills Theatre Mall Greenhills. **FABRIC WAREHOUSE** Basement level SM Megamall Bldg. A. **FIRMA** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **FULLY BOOKED** Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **GIRL SHOPPE** Hip 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **GUCCI** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center. **HIP STOP** Greenhills Theatre Mall Greenhills. **IN STORE** Greenhills Theatre Mall Greenhills. **INK & STONE** The Podium Ortigas. **ISHQ** Astoria Plaza, Escriva Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig. **JESSICA** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **KISH** 2nd floor Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **LANDES** 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **LOUIS VUITTON** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center. **LUSH** Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall Rockwell, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **MAKE ROOM** Glorietta 4 ayala Center, 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **MANGO** Glorietta 3 Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **MIX** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **PAUL SMITH** 3rd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **PRADA** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center. **QUILL** 3rd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **RUSTAN'S** Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall **SIMPLE PLEASURES** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **TERRY SELECTION THE GOURMET STORE** Basement level The Podium Ortigas. **THE RUSTAN'S FLOWER SHOP** Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **TICKLES** 2nd floor Glorietta 4 Ayala Center, 3rd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **TINT** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center.

JUST SHOP FOR HIM

BALLY Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center, 2nd level Shangri-La Plaza. **CINDERELLA** Glorietta 3 Ayala Center. **ESSENSUALS BY TONI & GUY** 6750 Retail Arcade 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati. **FIRMA** Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center. **H-SALON** 2nd floor Rustan's Tower Ayala Center Makati 817-6149. **KENNETH COLE** 2nd floor Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **MY BEAUTY HUB** 6750 Retail Arcade 6750 Ayala Ave., Makati. **RANDY ORTIZ** 927-6485. **PCX** Glorietta 1 Ayala Center, 2nd level Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **RUSTAN'S** Ayala Center Makati, Alabang Town Center, Shangri-La Plaza Mall. **SALVATORE FERRAGAMO** Greenbelt 4 Ayala Center, Powerplant Mall Rockwell. **U** Rustan's Tower Ayala Center Makati, 5th floor Rustan's Twin Towers Shangri-La Plaza Mall.

A.CONSPIRACY 0917-8997699. **BENJIE ANGELES** 0922-8071505. **PAULA DEL ROSARIO** littlefreakinpaula@yahoo.com. **TOM EPPERSON** 890-3621. **H-SALON** 2nd floor Rustan's Tower Ayala Center Makati 817-6149. **HAINEE** 0917-4077666. **ARNZ LORENZO** 0919-2085558. **PETITA** 0917-8390924. **COI SAMOTH** coi_samoth@yahoo.com 0927-9515450. **JAKE VERZOSA** 0917-5780681.

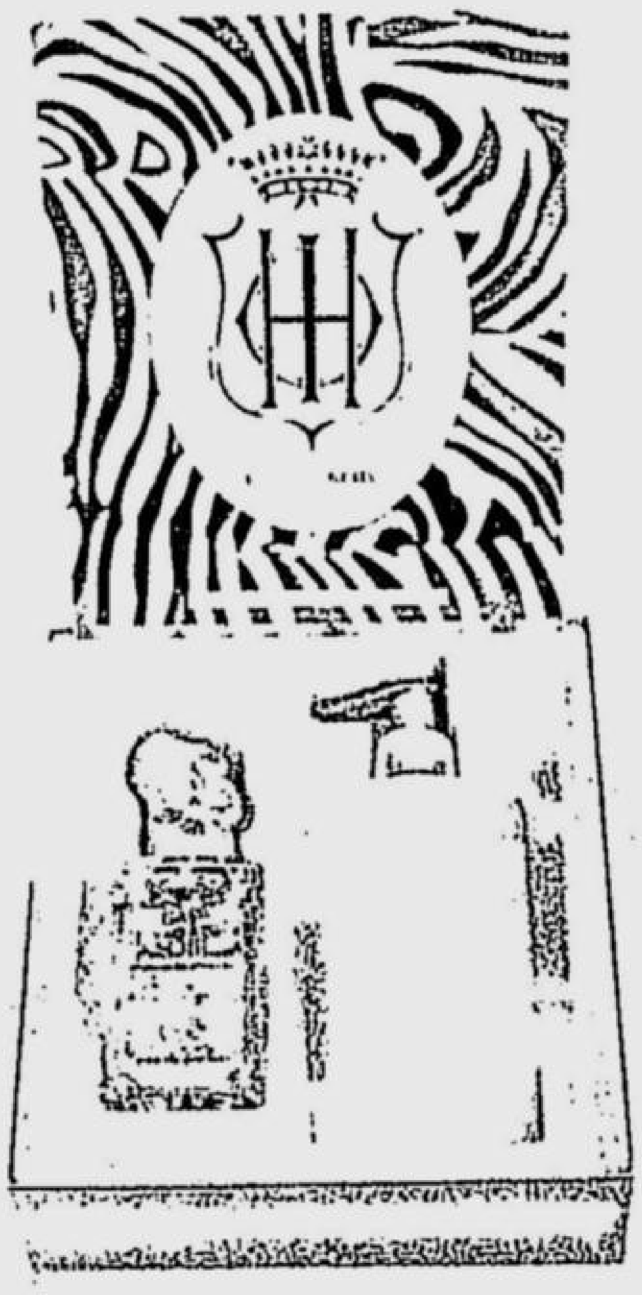
Bazaar Schedule

November

4-7	12th Taiwan Products & Technology Fair
4-7	Supermarket Show
6-7	Ayala Alabang Village Garden Club Bazaar
14-14	Metrobank Credit Cards Bazaae @ Le Pavilion
11-14	Womens' World 2004
14-14	Ayala Alabang Village Association Bazaar
14-14	Wish A Christmas Bazaar @ Xavier School Courts
18-21	14th Philconstruct Show 2004
21-21	Zonta Club of Muntinlupa Bazaar
20-21	Bizarre, Bazaar @ Le Pavilion
24	American Women's Club of the Philippines Bazaar @ World Trade Center
26-28	Noel the Discovery Bazaar & Christmas Shop Expo @ World Trade Center
28-28	Heaven Sent Bazaar @ The Fort
27-28	Eagles of Hope Christmas Bazaar @ Ateneo de Manila Covered Court

December

1-2	Lifestyle Network Bazaar @ RCBC Tower
10-12	Christmas Bazaar Back-To-Back with Garden and Pet Show @ Mega Trade Hall
11-12	Ayala Alabang Village Association Bazaar
15	American Women's Club of the Philippines Bazaar @ World Trade Center
18-19	Sisters of Mary Missionary Bazaar



Beauty Treats

Dont's settle for anything less, give the gift of beauty with the best packaged deals.

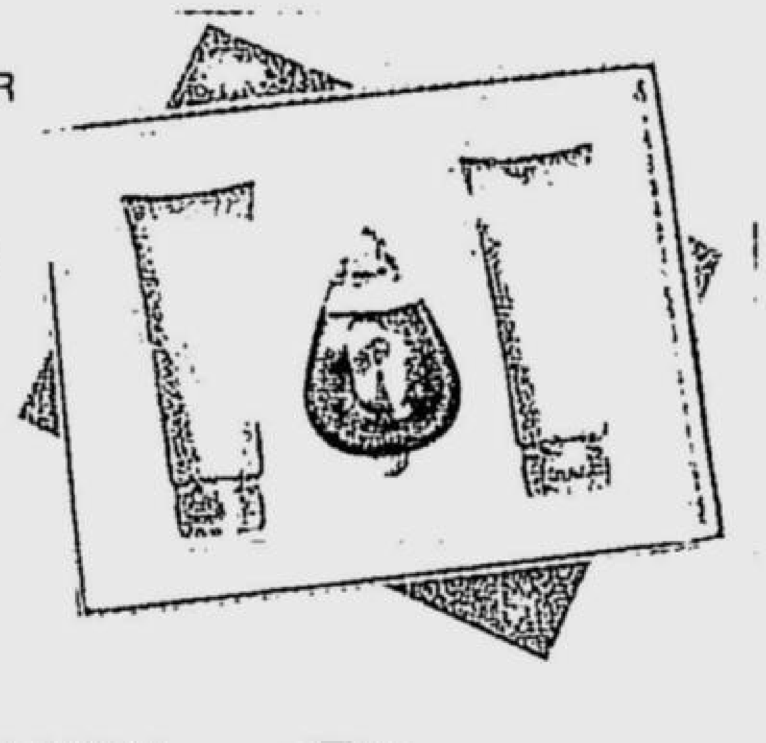
Photography **COI SAMOTH**

SISLEY EAU DU SOIR CREATIONS HUBERT ISABELLE D' ORNANO, P9,000, **RUSTAN'S**

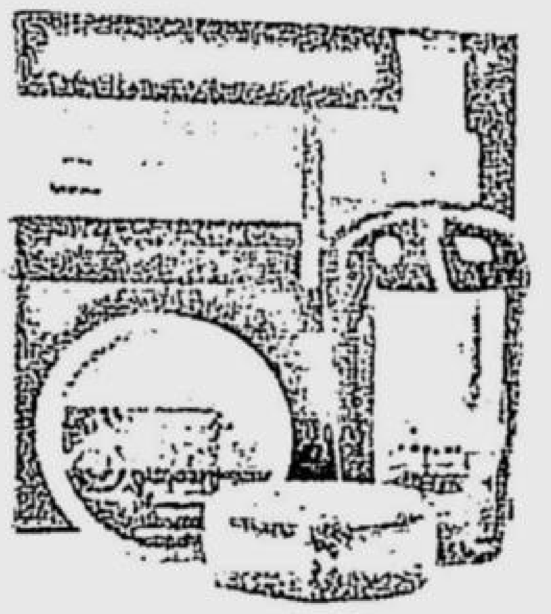
YOU'RE THE BEST
WINTER

LUSH YOU'RE THE BEST gift pack, P1,195

ESTÉE LAUDER BEYOND PARADISE INTOXICATING LUXURIES, P5,600, **RUSTAN'S**



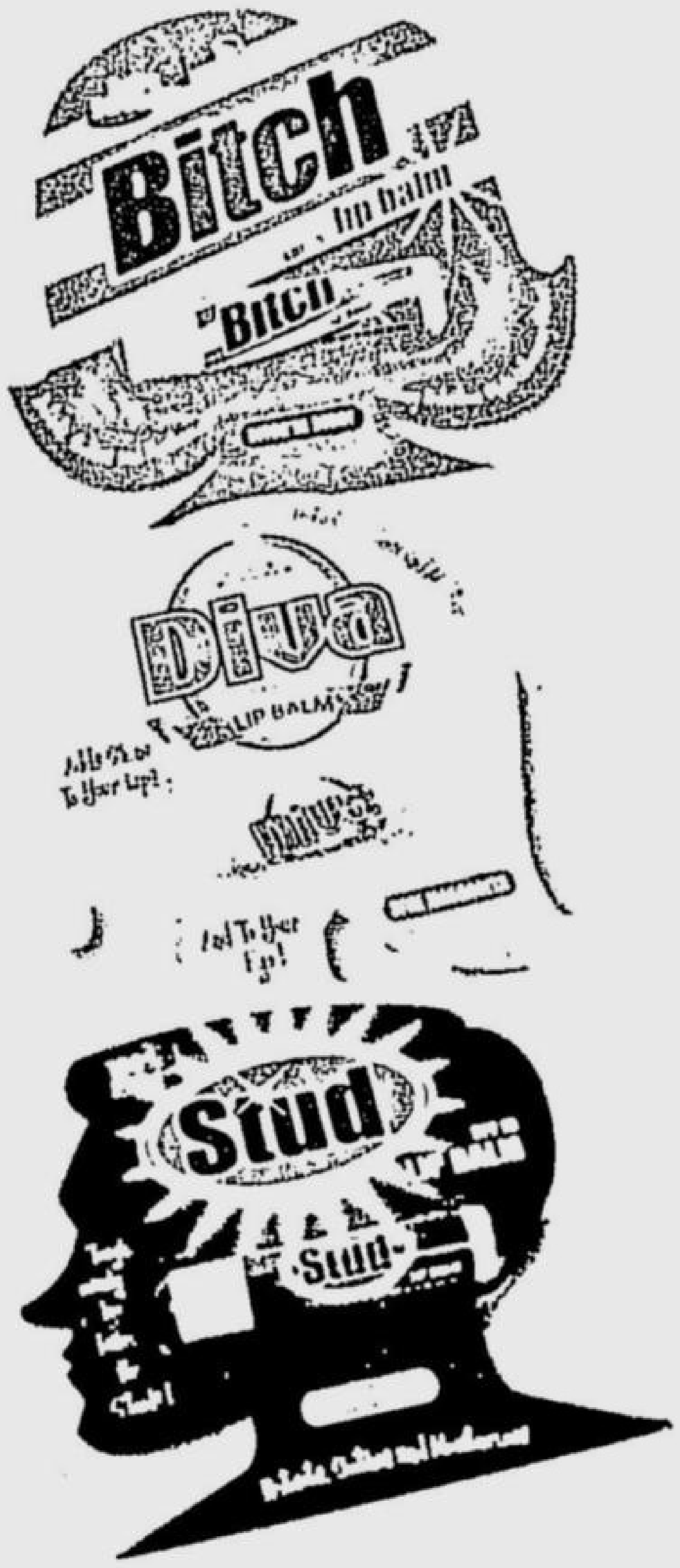
URBAN RITUELLE FUSION in Scents of Indigo, P1,650, **BEAUTY BAR**



SHU UEMURA CHIC & ROUGE FOUNDATION KIT, P3,995, **RUSTAN'S**

Balmshell

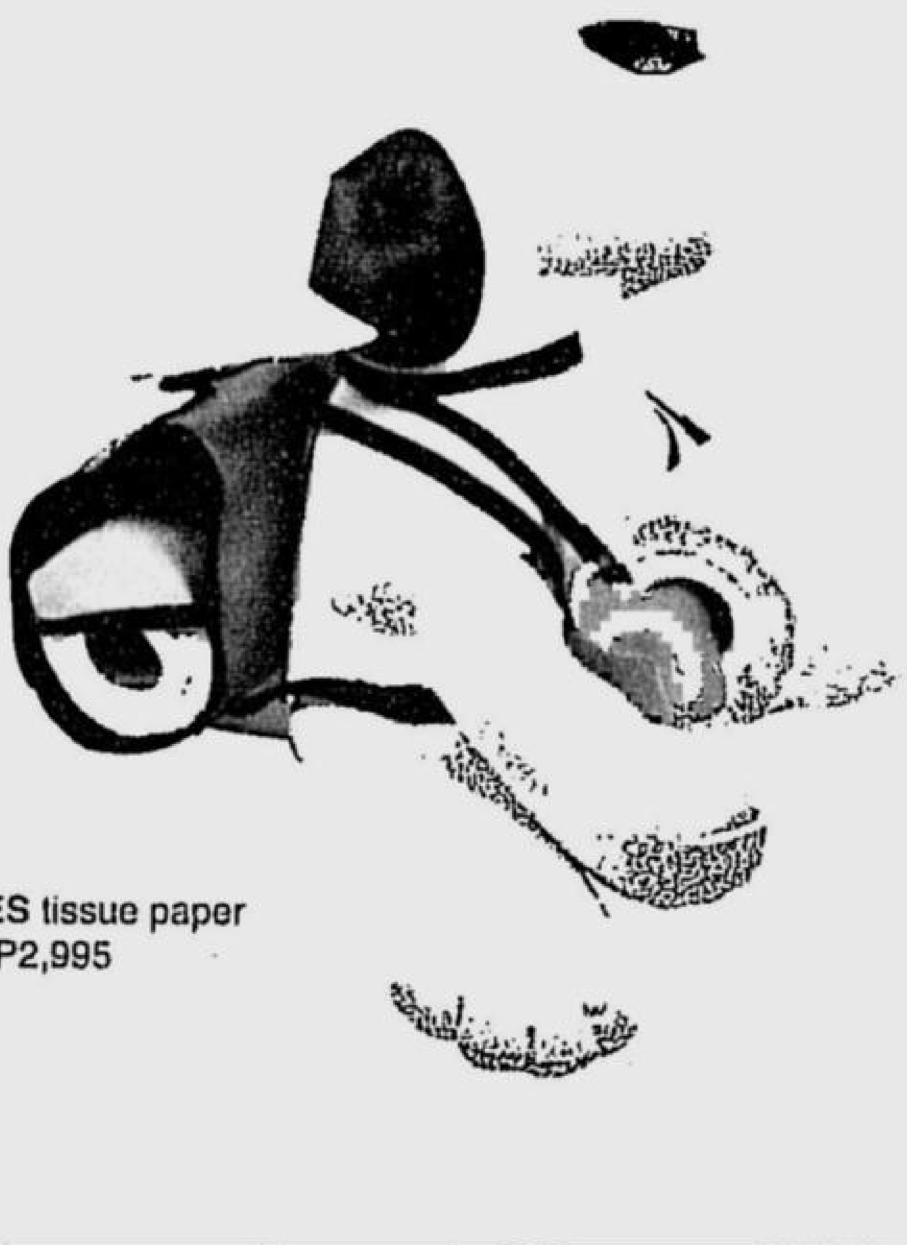
Let your lips do the talking this holiday season. Tell all with these instant Christmas stocking fillers.



All from **TICKLES**, P299.75 each

Jingle All The Way

Decorate the tree, wrap gifts, eat *bibingka*. Whatever you do, enjoy the season even as nature calls.



TICKLES tissue paper holder, P2,995

Topi toilet paper, P285 each, **QUILL**

Shiseido
2nd floor Glorietta 3 Ayala Center

Cacao Fizz Creamy Blush. Deep Bordeaux Mascara. Ruby Dazzle eye shadow. Red Currant Lipstick. This season calls for dramatic richness! So girls, get ready to paint the town red!

My Beauty Hub
6750 Retail Arcade, 6750 Ayala Avenue, Makati

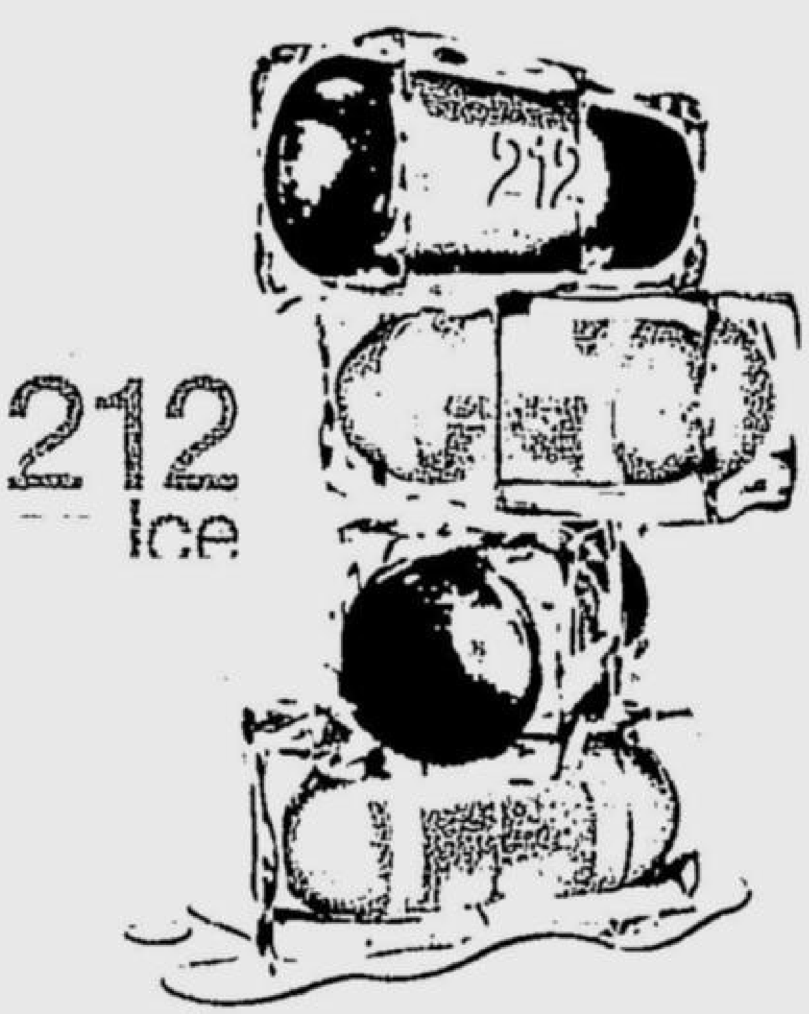
Beauty junkies unite! Get an all-time high shopping for exclusive brands Carita, Nuxe, By Terry, and Pieds Nus at **MY BEAUTY HUB!** Budding beauty enthusiasts will quickly get addicted with varied workshops and classes offered. Note: My Beauty Hub also has Men's Inc., a special area just for men. It carries the brands Zirh, Nickel, Phytomer Homme, and Shiseido for Men. This time it's okay to bring your hubby without the risk of getting the evil eye.

Lily
Lifestyles at Rockwell 2nd level Powerplant Mall, Rockwell

Get on the East-West trend this holiday season with the Asian-inspired goodies at Lily. Check out its newest store at the 2nd level of Powerplant Mall, Rockwell. **JUST SHOP** must-buy: the cheongsam cape -- oh so stylish!

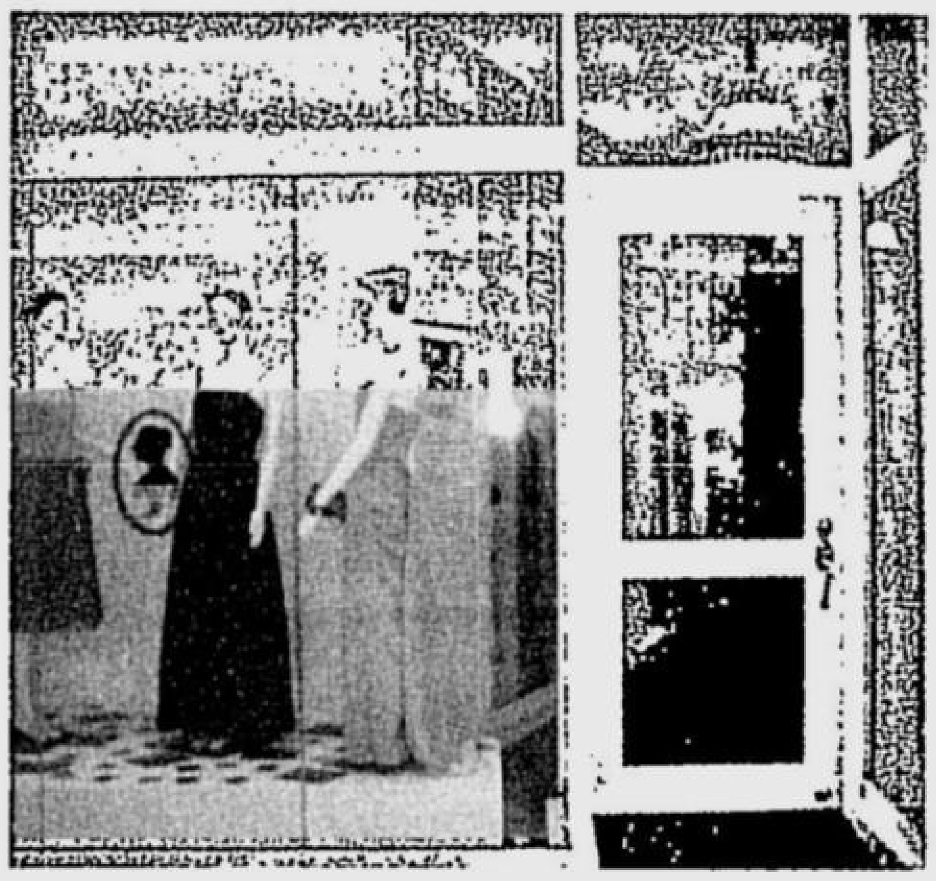
Studio 546
3rd level Shangri-La Plaza Mall

Eric Maningat works his makeup magic at his new salon STUDIO 546 at Shangri-La Plaza Mall. Let him play fairy godmother for your holiday beauty makeover. We swear by his Midas touch!



Carolina Herrera
Available at Rustan's

Matching clothes for you and your honey is way too cheesy. But matching scents? Why not! 212 On Ice and 212 Men On Ice are all about frozen passions. A perfect gift for you and your man!



Atelier M
Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center

Madame Tina Maristela-Ocampo, queen of chic, brings you gorgeous evening numbers by esteemed brands such as **Vera Wang**. Evening glamour just became more exciting!

MaxStudio.com

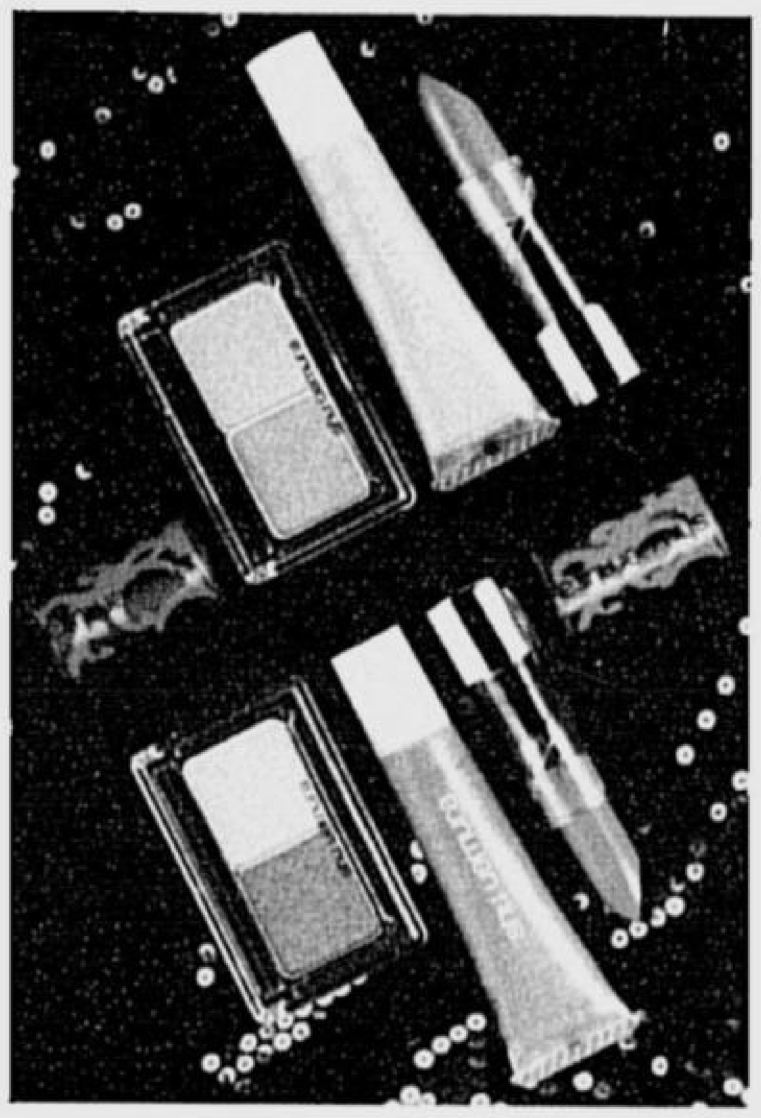
Greenbelt 3 Ayala Center

Just opened. Another shopping haven for style-seeking Filipinas. The elegant and chic style of MAXSTUDIO.COM is located at Greenbelt 3. Stock up on rich cashmeres, graceful chiffons, and glamorous satins. Luxurious fabrics -- this is what Holiday 2004 is all about!

Dorothy Perkins

Robinson's Galleria

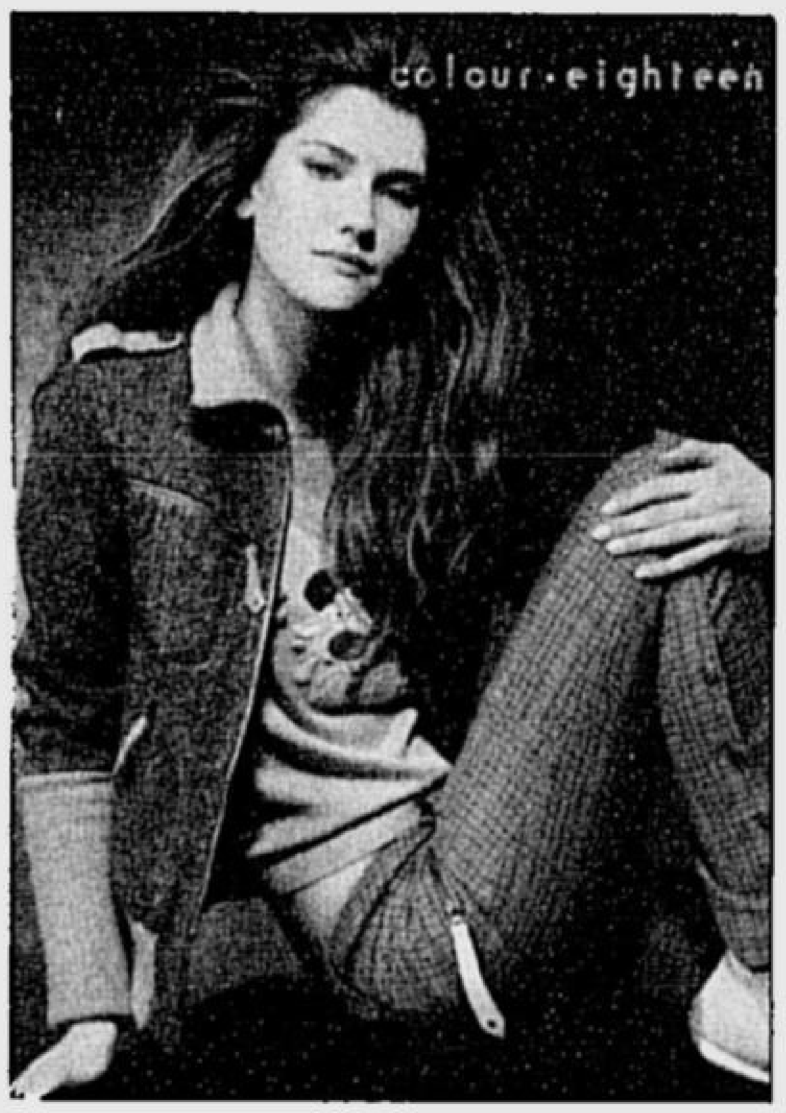
Portobello chic, English-style tailoring, chunky knits and rich tweeds will transform you into a certified Brit babe! **DOROTHY PERKINS** is located at ground level Robinson's Galleria.



Shu Uemura

Available at Rustan's

Oriental beauty and bold festivity. Dazzle this season with this Oriental Christmas formula from **SHU UEMURA** = Oriental feminine eye shadow palette + glow on pink 30 + Rouge 4 #135 + Jasmine Gold sweet lip gloss. A high impact look with minimal effort!



Colour Eighteen

2nd floor Rustan's Tower, Makati

Get in the mood of dressing fall style. Don the festive colors of the season in cool wintery prints! Layer it at **COLOUR EIGHTEEN**.

BED HEAD
TIGI
EGO BOOST

TIGI Bed Head

Available in all leading hair salons

Get ready for your night out in the city. Sport a stellar look and literally shine with **TIGI BED HEAD**. Its variety of products address practically every hair care and styling need that help create that Hollywood celebrity look like *Sex and The City* star Sarah Jessica Parker.

Alfa

Robinson's Galleria

Whether a Modelo, Kolehiyala or Sosyal you're sure to find a bag to suit your style this season. Come November, colorful suede, patchwork and contrast linings come into play by in-house designer Jill Llema. Angela Laurel glams up **ALFA**'s December collection with evening bags perfect for the *sosyal* in you!

IRREGULAR PAGINATION

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

JUST SHOP

Desire is the ulti

FOR HIM

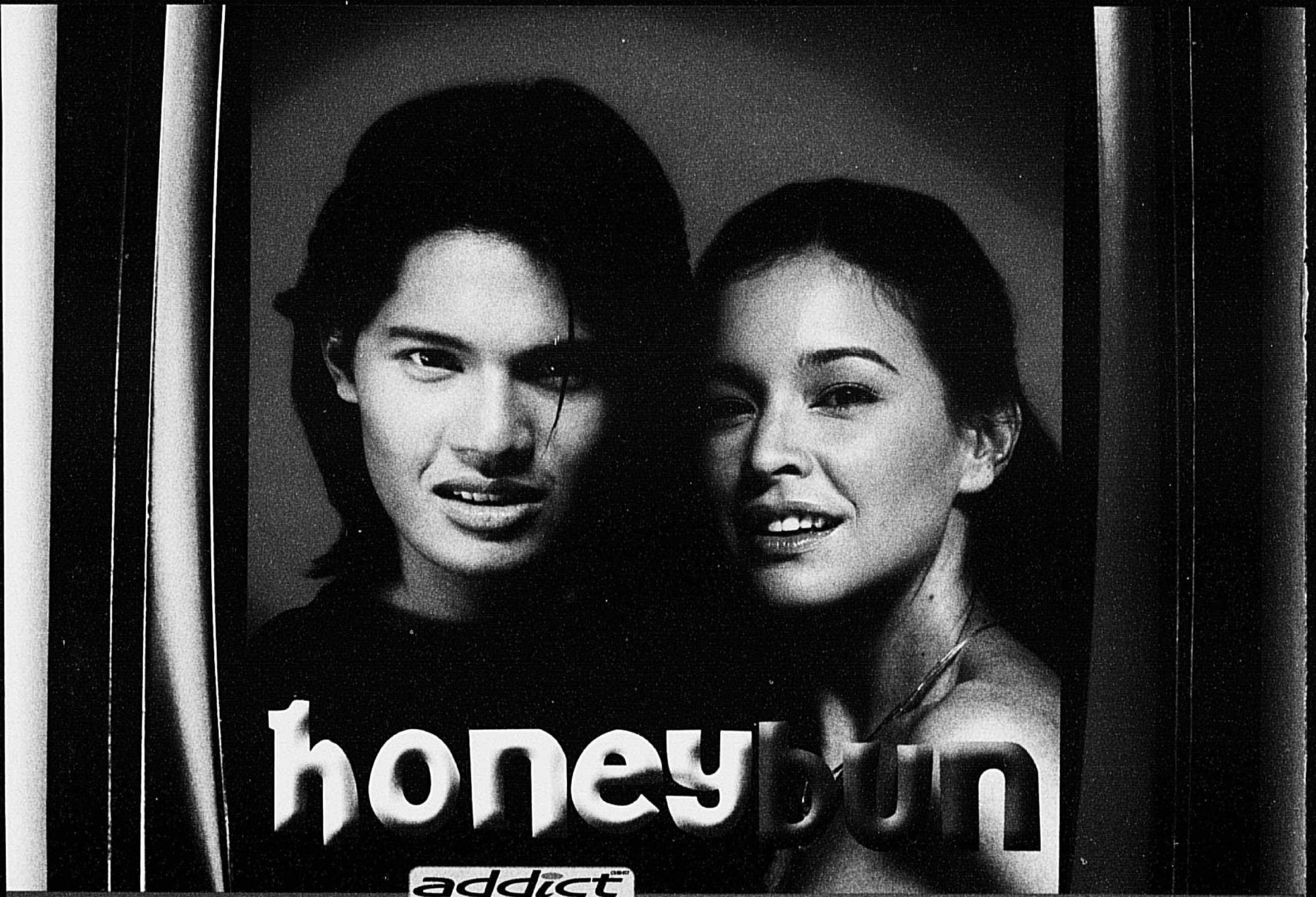
Oct '04

It's Free!

Jericho Rosales

flip it!

Photography
JAKE VERZOSA
Hair and Grooming
HENRI CALAYAG of H[illegible]
John Varvatos suit, P64,500,
RUSTAN'S
RANDY ORTIZ shirt



addict MOBILE

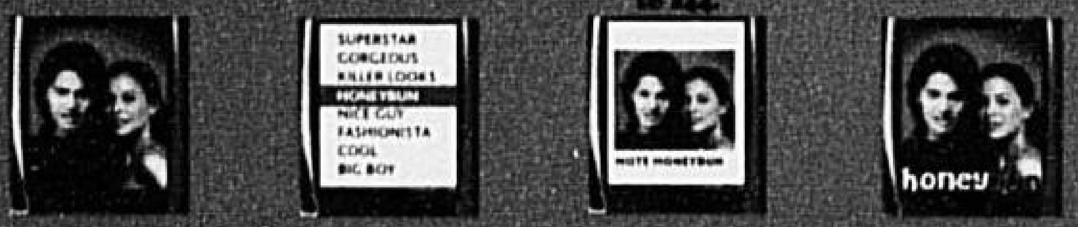
photonotes

SEND NOTE TO 244

Why MMS around with plain photos when you can throw some POW into your pictures?

To use Photonotes:

1. Take a picture with your camera phone.
2. Choose a template for your picture.
3. Then send NOTE<keyword> to 244.
4. Receive your Photonote from 244.



To create your own Photonote:

1. Create an MMS message using the photo you want to send, then attach your personalized Photonote by entering: WRITE <your personalized note> (up to 12 characters only).
   Ex: (YOUR PHOTO) WRITE HAPPY BDAY!
2. Send your MMS to 244.
3. You'll receive an MMS reply with your personalized greeting now converted into a Photonote.

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LoveU!
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gorgeous
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NO.1
BIG BOY
MACHO
honey
HONEY
DUDE!!!
cool
COOLCHICK

LOVEU ROCKON GORGEOUS SUPASTAR FASHIONISTA PLAYA BIGBOY

GOTCHA MACHO HONEYBUN HONEY DUDE COOL COOLCHICK

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How to set GPRS:	How to set MMS:
a. Send SET GPRS <phone model> to 211 (ex. SET GPRS 7610)	a. Send SET MMS <phone model> to 211 (ex. SET MMS 7610)
b. To activate GPRS service, Text GPRS ON to 333	b. To activate MMS service, Text MMS ON to 333

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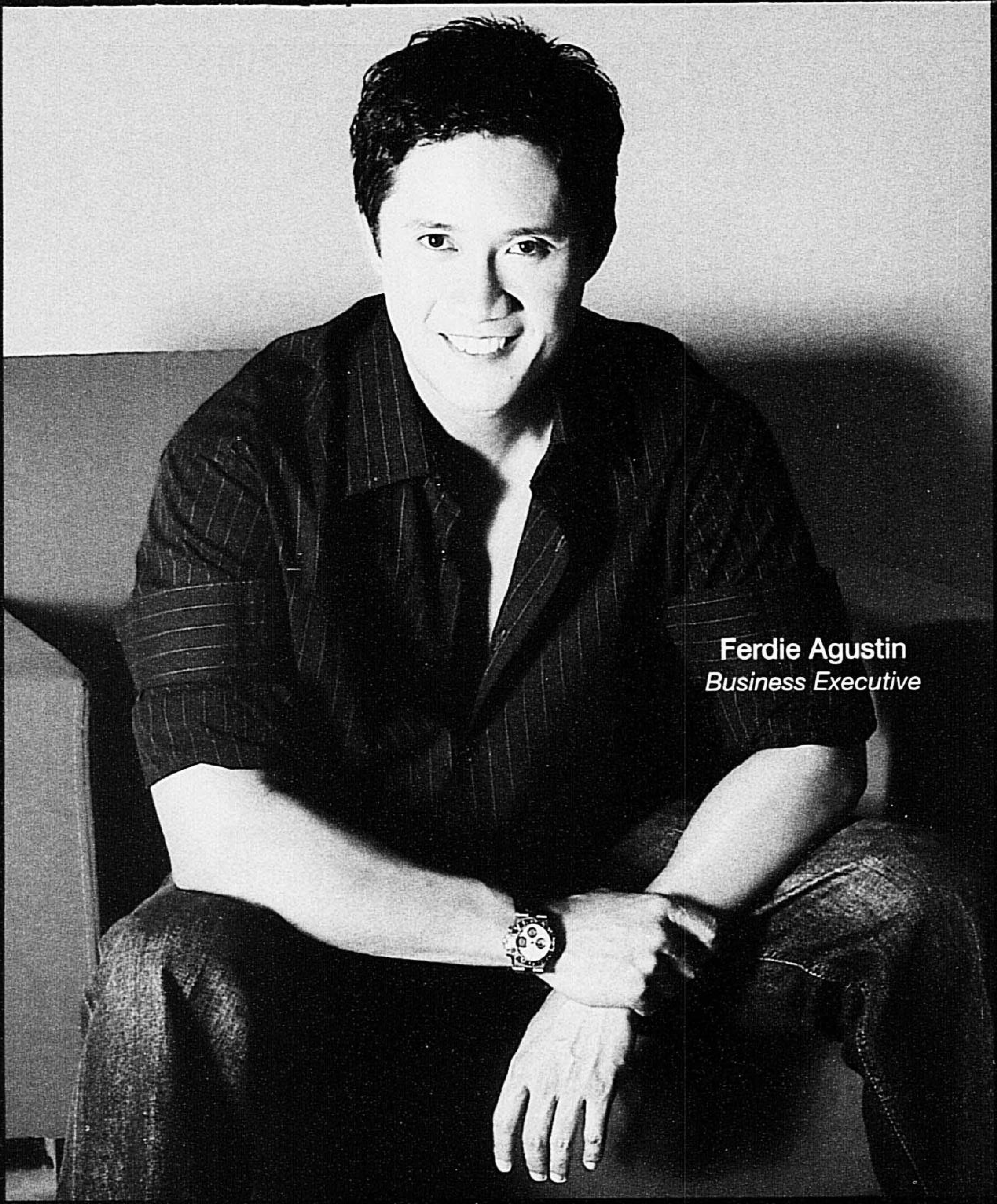

Ferdie Agustin
Business Executive

HAIR LOSS
STOPS
AT SVENSON

"MY EXCESSIVE FALLING HAIR PROBLEM IS OVER!"

"I once had excessive falling hair and itchy scalp problems. Although no one else noticed, I wanted to do something about it because the thought of becoming bald bothered me. **Svenson** was my first and only choice for solving hair loss. Through their treatments, I noticed a definite improvement: the itchiness was gone, my hair feels thicker and looks healthier. With the kind of hair and scalp problems that I had, I'd recommend Svenson. Now, I'll never be bothered by impending baldness!"

Stop hair loss and recover the natural thickness.

Call Svenson today!

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INTERNATIONAL
YOUR CHOICE NOT TO BE BALD

Call 892-HAIR (4247)

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CEBU
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editor's note

Personal style is a gamble. You risk being praised or ridiculed. With this maiden (or shall I say, premier) issue of **JUST SHOP FOR HIM**, we aim to make men feel like how they should--the stronger sex.

But we can only achieve this by emulating the women--which gives them back the power, actually.

But this editor's note is not about the battle of the sexes. "What is important is that men feel they have a right to treat themselves," Jean Paul Gaultier, with the launch of his new cosmetic line for men, could not have put it better.

So, just like empowered women, us men should be able to take more chances with our wardrobe. Dressing up can be considered a game but it should not have too many rules. A little flash doesn't hurt anyone.

On the cover of this issue is Jericho Rosales--a guy who fearlessly takes each challenge by its reins. Flip side to Jacques Dupasquier, a real man about town whose swagger makes the ladies swoon.

Let's put our chips on dart board secrets and take some risks with trendy tips from style spotter Gino De La Paz. (page - 5)

Scent-sation, anyone? These days, the scent of a good man is enough for anyone to flip over. Dr. Mark Platon lends us his nose. (page -7)

So, just like the women in our lives, we should take care of our bodies. By taking care of ourselves, we express our need to interact with others.

So, what are you waiting for? Roll the dice.

Tim yap

editor **TIM YAP**
design **MARLONE RUBIO**
fashion assistants
KATRINA CRUZ, DAVID MILAN
writers **GINO DE LA PAZ, MARK PLATON**

special thanks to **DPI STUDIO**, Astoria Plaza, Ortigas

our flip man

Jericho Rosales

What's on your shopping list?
Suits, glasses, and shoes

Where do you shop?
New York, Europe, Haighst in San Francisco, and sometimes in ukay-ukay.

Who do you usually shop for?
I'll shop for my girl and my brother.

What gifts do you want for Christmas?

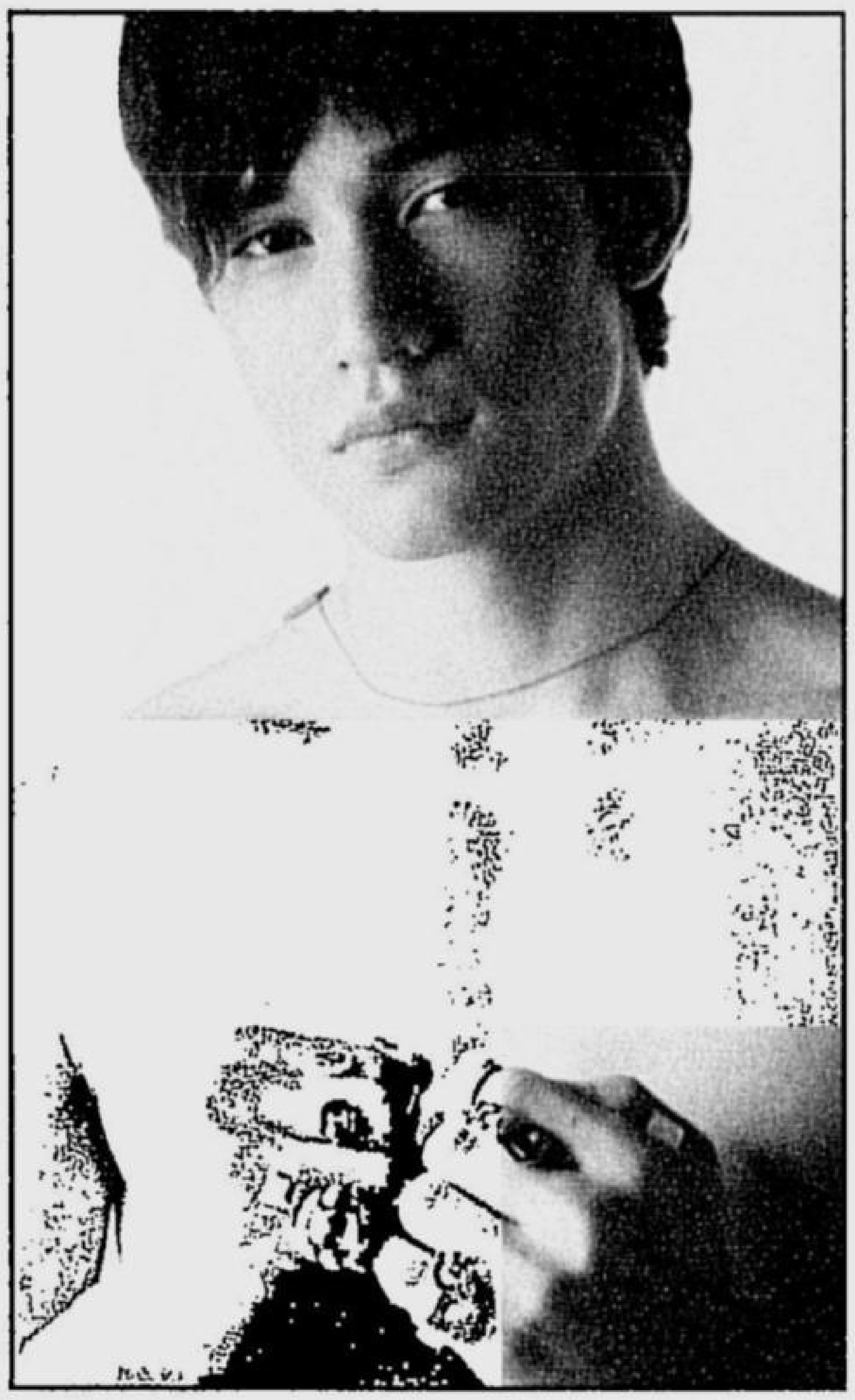
1. Authentic Panama hat
2. Brit Bulldog
3. Unique chess board
4. Jughead comic book

tim yap's picks

ZIRH
BED HEAD
PURE ZONE
Championship

Model ZANJOE MARUDO

ON THE DART
(Clockwise from top):
Zirh Correct, Vitamin Enrich Serum, P1,650, **MY BEAUTY HUB** Nivea for Men Face Care Energy Cream Q10, P300, **PCX**; Decleor Paris, Le Soin-Skin Care for Men- Stop Fatigue-Rides, **RUSTAN'S**; L'Oreal Pure Zone, Continuous Purity, Step 1 Deep Exfoliating Gel Wash, P149, **PCX**; Lancôme Homme, Recharging Moisturizer 24hour Hydration Anti-tightness, P2,400, **RUSTAN'S**; Zirh Clean, Alpha-Hydroxy Face Wash, P950, **MY BEAUTY HUB**; Bed Head Tigi After-Party- Smoothing Cream for Silky, Shiny Looking Hair! P1,390; Bed Head Tigi Boy Toys- Body Building Funkifier, P1,390; Bed Head Tigi Shine Junkie- In A Can Outshine Everyone!, P1,390, all available at **ESSENSUALS BY TONI & GUY** Zirh Protect, Daily Face Moisturizer, P1,650, **MY BEAUTY HUB**.



Model **VICTOR BASA**

SALVATORE FERRAGAMO and **FIRMA** cufflinks and jewelry, prices available upon request

B to the **L** to the I to the N to the G. A little flash never hurt anybody. Besides, four out of five women would date a guy who wears jewelry.

im a gambler!

By GINO DE LA PAZ

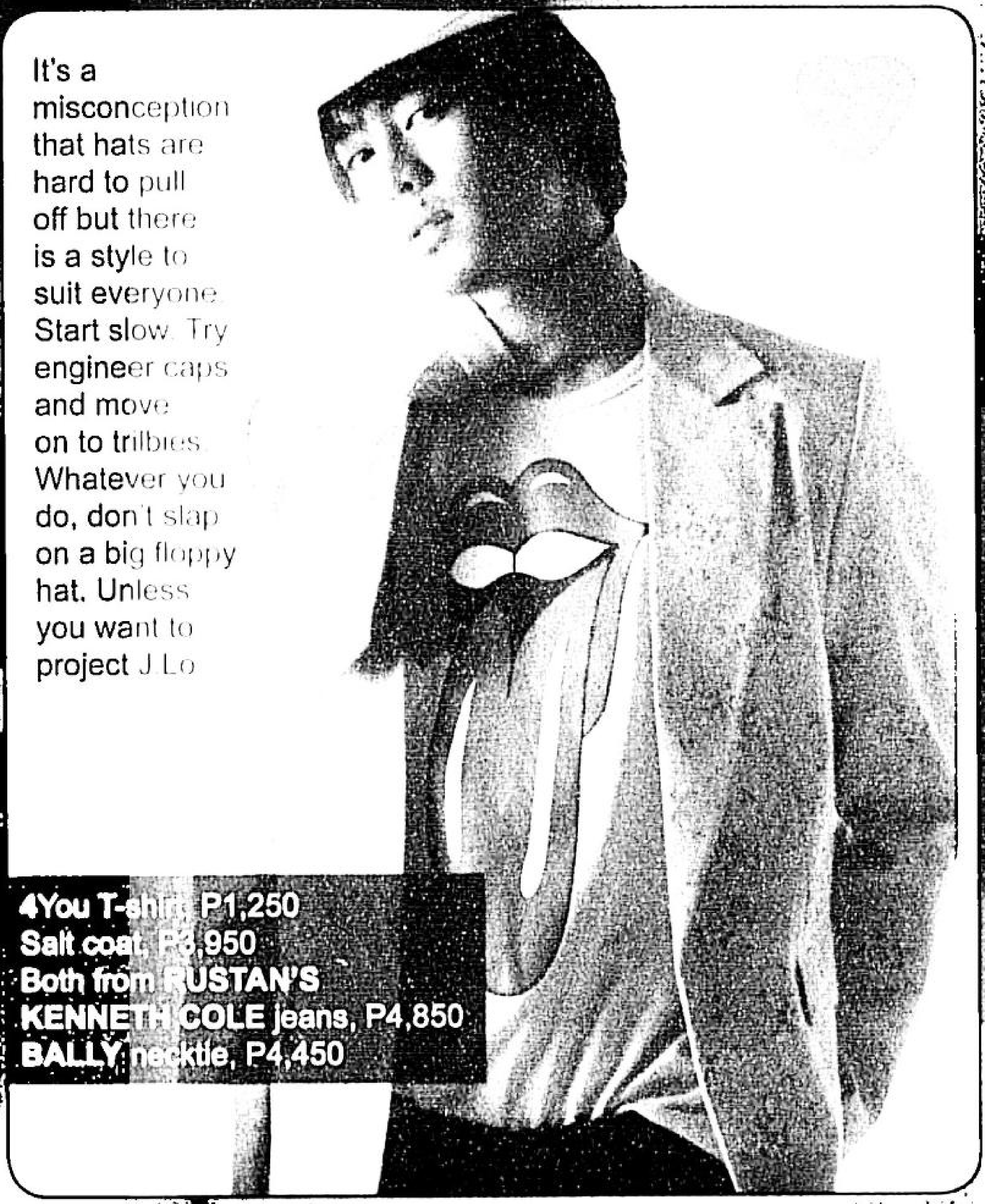
Photography

Hair and Grooming **XENG ZU**

graphy BUTCH BALUYOT
nd Grooming HENRI CALAYAG of H-S

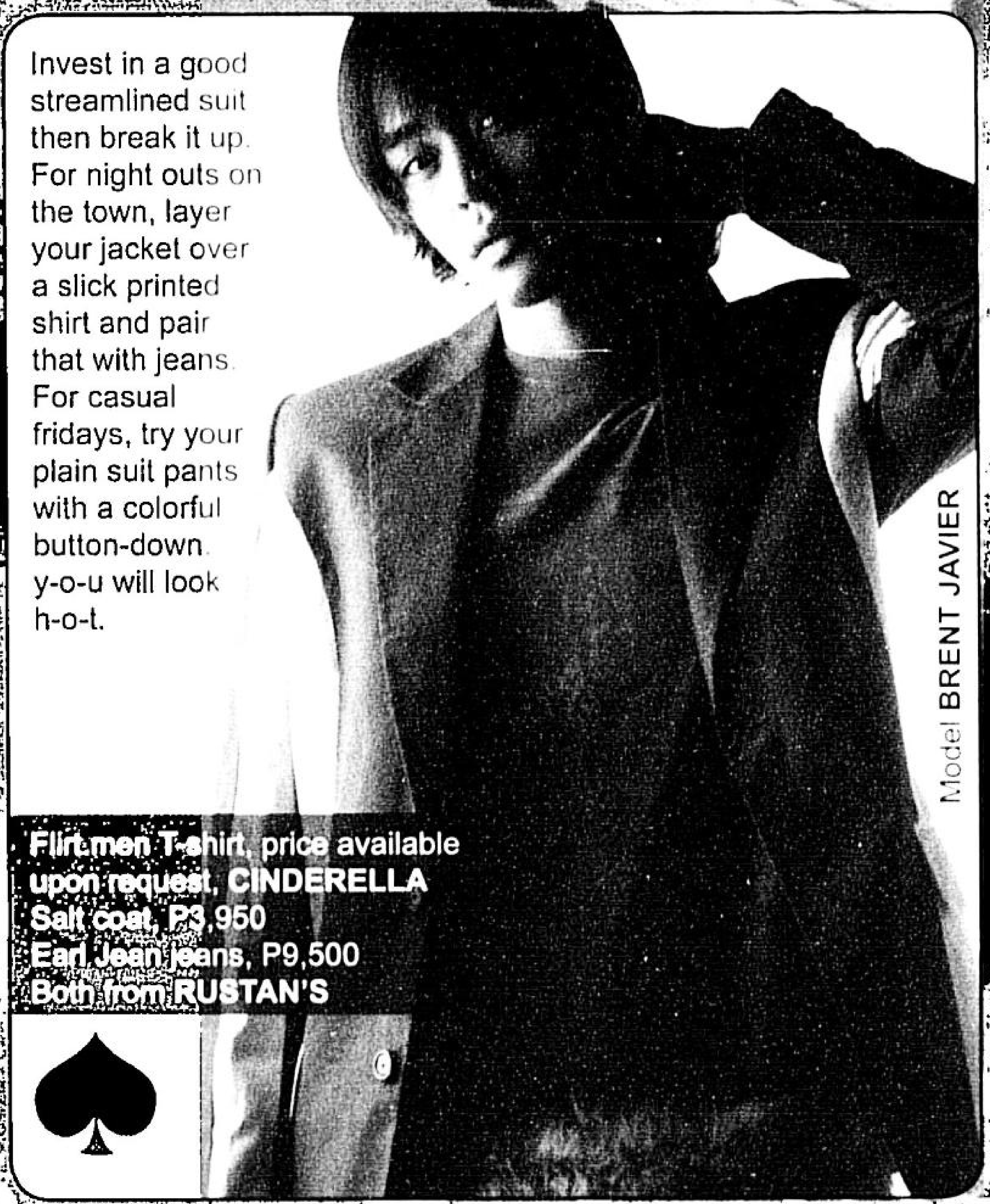
Tapered jeans? Leave them in the 90s. Dark boot-cut denims are the modern fail-safe basics. Dial it up a notch with denim trousers, which are cut like dress pants and are cooler than khakis

Salt polo shirt, P1,750
Salt coat, P3,950
Earl Jean jeans, P9,500
All available at **RUSTAN'S**
BALLY necktie, P4,450 each



It's a misconception that hats are hard to pull off but there is a style to suit everyone. Start slow. Try engineer caps and move on to trilbies. Whatever you do, don't slap on a big floppy hat. Unless you want to project J Lo

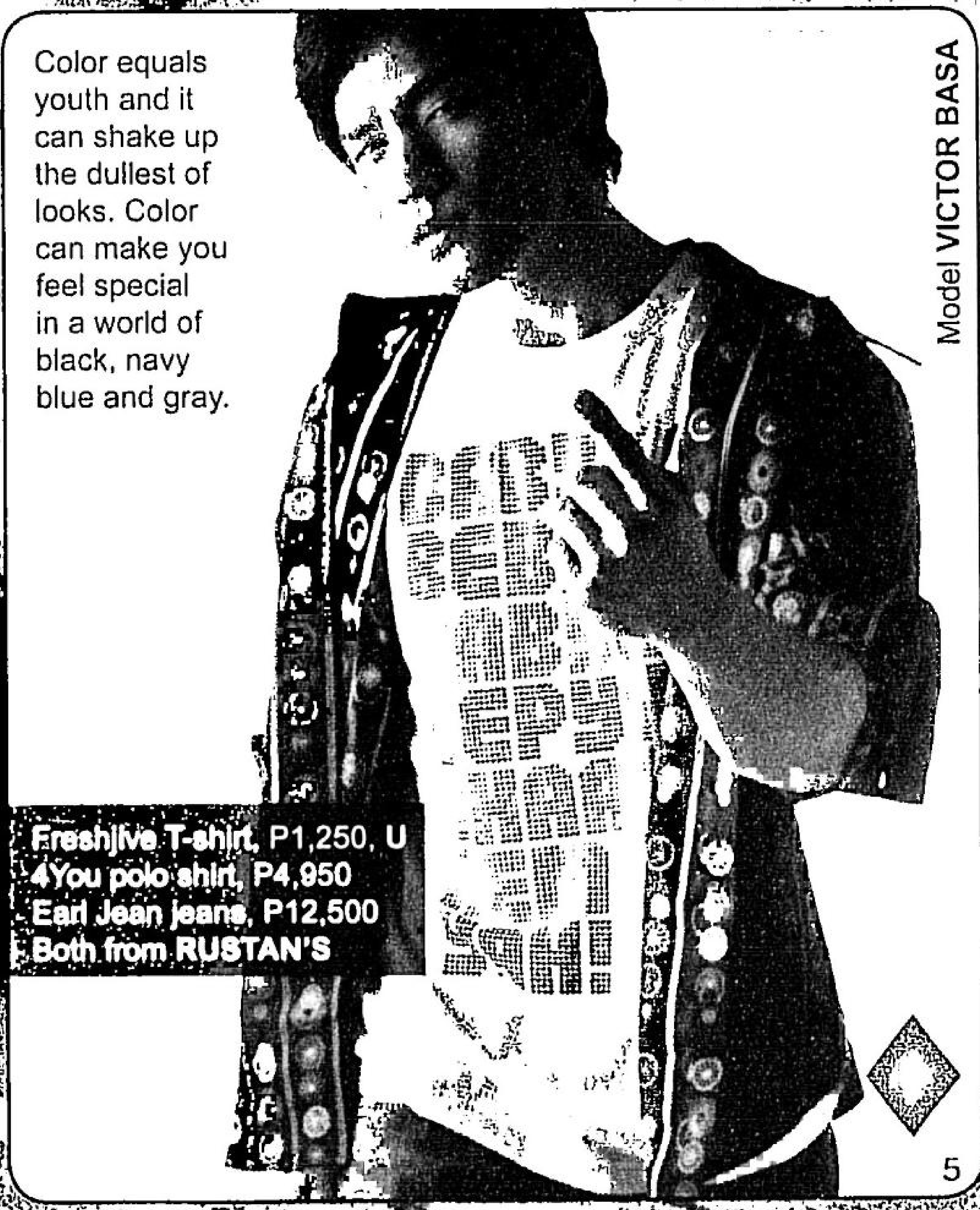
4You T-shirt, P1,250
Salt coat, P3,950
Both from **RUSTAN'S**
KENNETH COLE jeans, P4,850
BALLY necktie, P4,450



Invest in a good streamlined suit then break it up. For night outs on the town, layer your jacket over a slick printed shirt and pair that with jeans. For casual fridays, try your plain suit pants with a colorful button-down. y-o-u will look h-o-t.

Model BRENT JAVIER

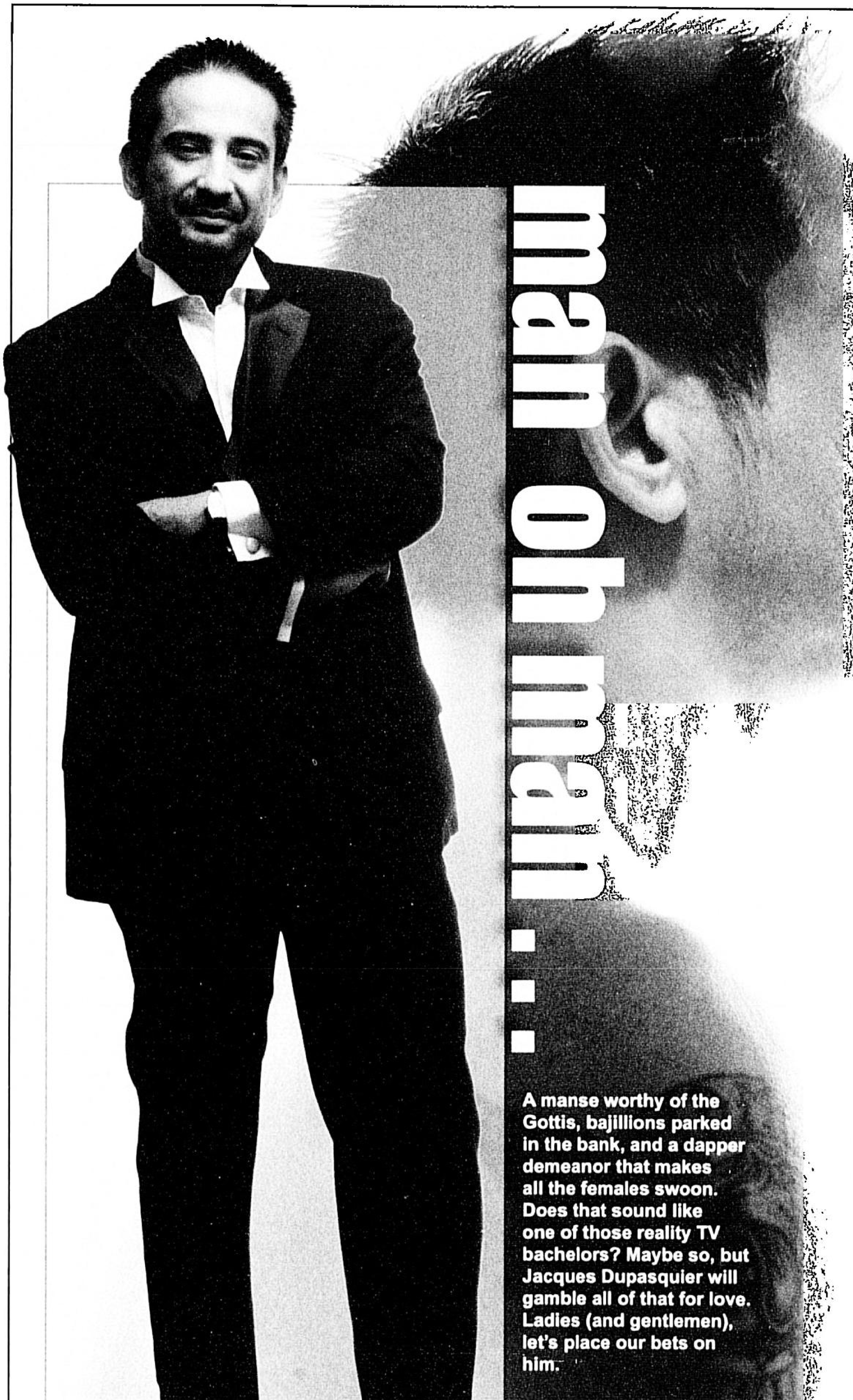
Flirt men T-shirt, price available upon request, **CINDERELLA**
Salt coat, P3,950
Earl Jean jeans, P9,500
Both from **RUSTAN'S**



Color equals youth and it can shake up the dullest of looks. Color can make you feel special in a world of black, navy blue and gray.

Model VICTOR BASA

Freshjive T-shirt, P1,250, U
4You polo shirt, P4,950
Earl Jean jeans, P12,500
Both from **RUSTAN'S**



man oh man . . .

A manse worthy of the Gottis, bajillions parked in the bank, and a dapper demeanor that makes all the females swoon. Does that sound like one of those reality TV bachelors? Maybe so, but Jacques Dupasquier will gamble all of that for love. Ladies (and gentlemen), let's place our bets on him.

JUST SHOP For Him: What are you willing to gamble on?
Jacques Dupasquier: L-O-V-E

JSFH: Top three shopping destinations?
JD: Paris, New York, and Hong Kong!

JSFH: Style Tips for Men?
JD: BE YOURSELF.

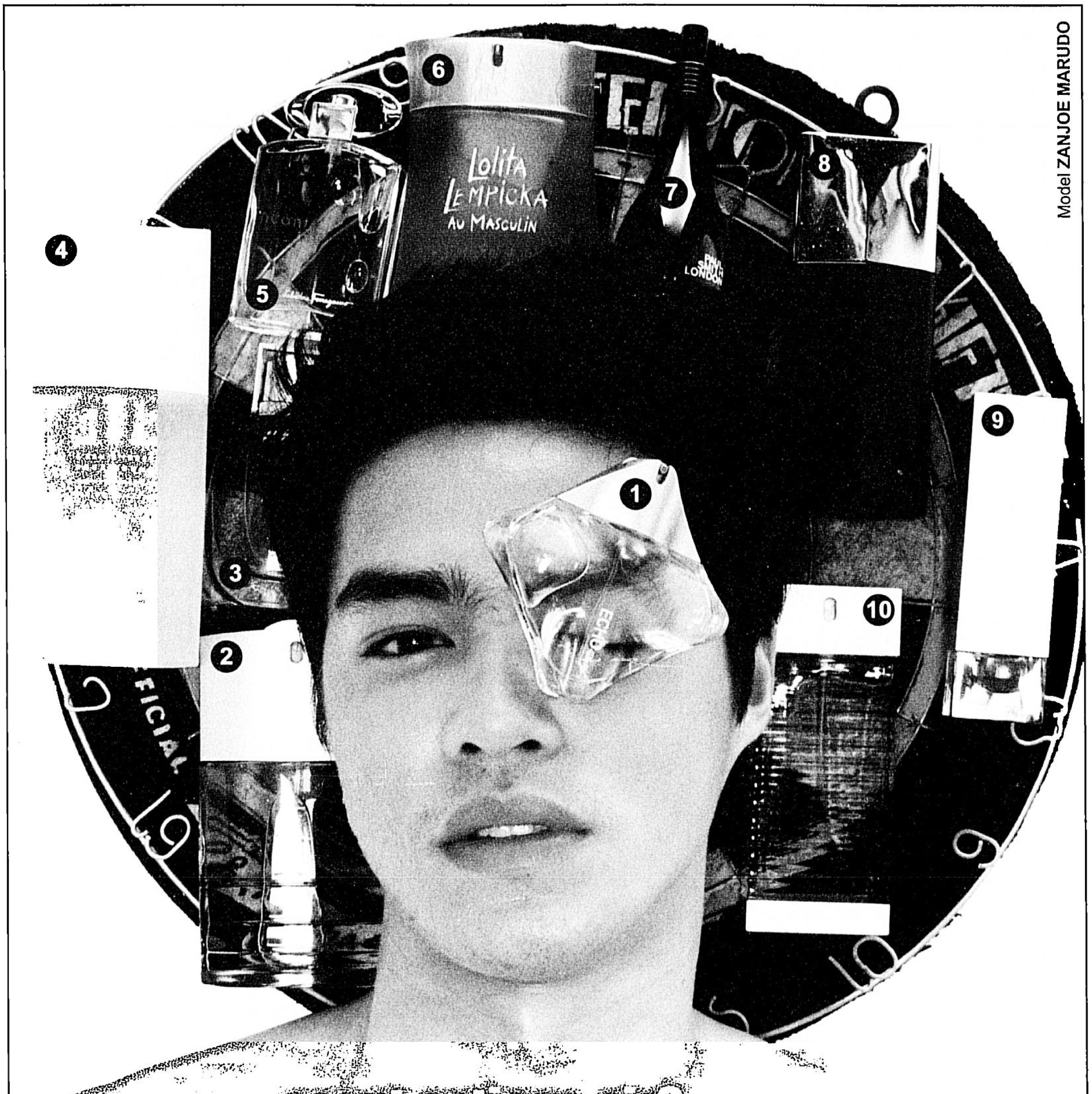
JSFH: Skin care must haves...
JD: A good moisturizer like Shu Uemura Deep Sea Therapy Moisturize Recovery Emulsion.

JSFH: Five things you can't live without?
JD: Watch (model depends on mood, day and style), Nokia Communicator, Chapstick, Listerine Strips, and wallet (of course!).

JSFH: Your vanity kit is composed of?
JD: The list is too long to fit in one, so I need to travel with two (no joke!).

JSFH: Your day is not complete without?
JD: A good workout at Gold's Gym.

JSFH: Your secret to your glow is?
JD: Confidence . . . and Rachel Soriano



Model **ZANJOE MARUDO**

scent-sations, sir?

1 ECHO Pleasantly light, sends ripples of cool and calm throughout your body just like that perfectly overcast sky. Wear it for a stroll on a breezy afternoon (30ml., P1,998). **2 OXYGENE** A milder L'eau Bleue with a different philosophy. Bleue smells like the log cabin; Oxygene is what it feels like to live in it. For trips out of town (50ml., P2,650). **3 VET Y VER** Vaguely spicy with traces of sweet pome fruits. Sunday brunch dates, when you're there simply to enjoy good eats and good company, and not out to make a statement (30ml., P2,350). **4 L'EAU D'ISSEY** Zen Citrus, a straightforward scent. For purists who don't have time for BS (75ml., P3,050). **5 INCANTO** No, not another hit from Salbakuta (sp?). spicy and woodsy, reminds me off… nutmeg! Very late night coffee with a book or a friend (30ml., P2,098). **6 LOLITA LEMPICKA** Say whuh? Had me seriously confused trying to decipher the scent, just like the name. sweet & powdery with a kick at the end (50ml., P2,350).

For those bravely secure about their masculinity and would like to try something new and different. **7 PAUL SMITH** Stick it close enough to your nose, and it smells almost like Absolut Vanilla with licorice. Nearly as intoxicating, too. For smart-casual affairs that have potential for a slow dance (100ml., P3,950) . **8 L'EAU BLEUE D'ISSEY** Definitely cedar. If you want to make a strong impression… or be remembered as a scratch-n-sniff for a loghome (75ml., P3,250). **9 CONTRADICTION** Very clean, aseptic. Almost rubbing alcohol-esque, but with a fresh vibe. Goes perfectly with that post-work-out aura (30ml., P2,650). **10 TSAR** For some reason, reminds me of the library at our old house; or uncles that visit on weekends. Probably for the more mature set, or just plain nostalgic and old-fashioned. (All available at RUSTAN'S). *–Mark Platon*